Kilili: No need to rush USCIS regs on CW applications. PAGE 2
CUC's fuel charge is unchanged this month. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

HONORING HEROES

U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie and acting governor Arnold I. Palacios carry a wreath to the American Memorial Park's Court of Honor yesterday for the wreath-laying ceremony. Wilkie was on a one-day visit to the CNMI. Others in photos are U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and Superintendent of NMI and Guam National Parks Barbara Alberti.

Story on Page 5

MARC A. VENUS

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 151
THURSDAY AUGUST 1, 2019
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Mongolia workers arriving; IPI also hiring from Turkey

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

- Dragon chandelier installation now complete
- Landscaping ongoing;
- Furniture ready for shipment

About 40 H2-B workers from Mongolia will start to arrive this week to help finish the construction of the delayed Imperial Palace casino/resort project in Garapan.

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is also considering hiring more construction workers from Turkey.

Eric Poon, IPI's assistant vice president of construction, disclosed the employment of such H2-B workers

See MONGOLIA on Page 4

Bomb threat at Saipan airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority received at 9:18am yesterday a phone call from an anonymous caller threatening to "blow up" the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

CPA immediately activated its airport emergency plan.

In accordance with that plan, CPA notified its tenants and the Federal Bureau of Investigation about the bomb threat, and CPA Ports Police immediately began its inves-

See BOMB on Page 4

MV *Luta* case settles

A resolution has been reached in the Commonwealth's lawsuit against Luta Mermaid, LLC, with a consent judgment to recover $400,000 in public funds that were advanced to Luta Mermaid LLC, to be paid across five years.

According to an Office of the Attorney General statement last Tuesday, the settlement includes the en-

See MV on Page 4

US Mint: $1 coin exists

By BEA CABRERA
Correspondent
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Aside from the $1 bill, the $1 coin exists and was, in fact, released by the U.S. Mint in the 1700s but its use never became popular in the U.S. mainland, then and now. Only a few states have this in circulation and, currently, none here in the CNMI.

In the 1800s, it is believed that since the gold $1 coin measures just 13mm, people found it hard to keep, especially at a time when $1 was a day's wage. Since then its use never picked up.

See COIN on Page 4

One-dollar coins are 13mm in size and with a gold finish. The coins currently in circulation in the U.S. mainland have the faces of America's sixth and 12th's president John Quincy Jones and Zachary Taylor.

BEA CABRERA

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Catch new Thai flavors at Tom Yum restaurant along Middle Road.

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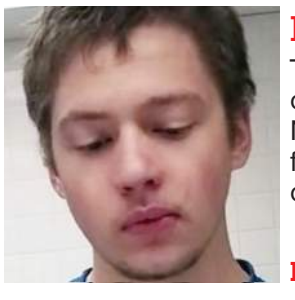

NATION
The gunman who opened fire at a Northern California food festival was "kind of a loner."

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ASIA
North Korea fires two short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast.

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Local

Kilili: No need to rush USCIS regs on CW applications

There is no need to rush the issuance of new CW-1 regulations, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), since the lack of the regulations currently bear no disadvantages to the CNMI.

Responding to a *Saipan Tribune* inquiry, Sablan noted that, while his office maintains constant contact with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for the release of the regulations, there is no need to rush the agency to issue new regulations that would guide employers in applying for work permits for their foreign workers, called CW permits.

"…[USCIS] is in the middle of multiple policy issues at the moment and must use its resources on its most pressing problems. As long as employers in the Marianas are not placed at a disadvantage because of the lack of new regulations—and no employer has told me this—there is no reason to be impatient with USCIS on the issuance of the CW regulations," he said.

According to Sablan, the only new requirement being asked of employers is to first obtain a Temporary Labor Certification, or TLC, from the U.S. Department of Labor. In order to get a TLC, an employer must first secure a Prevailing Wage Determination and prove that the local workforce cannot provide the skills the employer needs.

Sablan emphasized that getting the TLC helps secure employment for U.S. citizens while making sure wages are similar across the board.

"…[The TLC] will confirm that employment of the CW worker will not take a job from a qualified U.S. worker nor bring down the wages of U.S. workers who are similarly employed — two of my major goals in writing the Workforce Act," he said.

"The congressional office is in regular contact with USCIS to check on release of regulations specifically implementing the Workforce Act," he added.

The NMI U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 passed the U.S. Congress last June 28, 2018. U.S. President Donald Trump signed it into law July 24, 2018.

USCIS has yet to release new regulations on how it intends to implement the new law. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

'NMTI should seek accreditation'

Two members of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board believe that the Northern Marianas Trades Institute should be accredited first before its students are given any financial aid.

SHEFA board members Francisco Cabrera and Raymond Muña brought up the matter at the SHEFA board's monthly meeting yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room.

Cabrera did clarify that he was stating this in his personal capacity and not on behalf of the SHEFA board.

Cabrera said that this is not as a directive from the SHEFA board, but he believes that now that the NMTI is assembling a board of its own, it should consider obtaining accreditation.

He pointed out that both the University of Guam and the Guam Community College are accredited; the same thing cannot be said when comparing the Northern Marianas College, which is accredited, and NMTI, which is not.

Now that NMTI has a board and is now a government entity, it should provide SHEFA with its goals and objectives on the subject of accreditation, Cabrera said.

NMC is currently accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or WASC.

Muña insists that he fully supports NMTI and their endeavors, and says that they are doing a great job but the SHEFA board should also be responsible in how it gives away its scholarship funds.

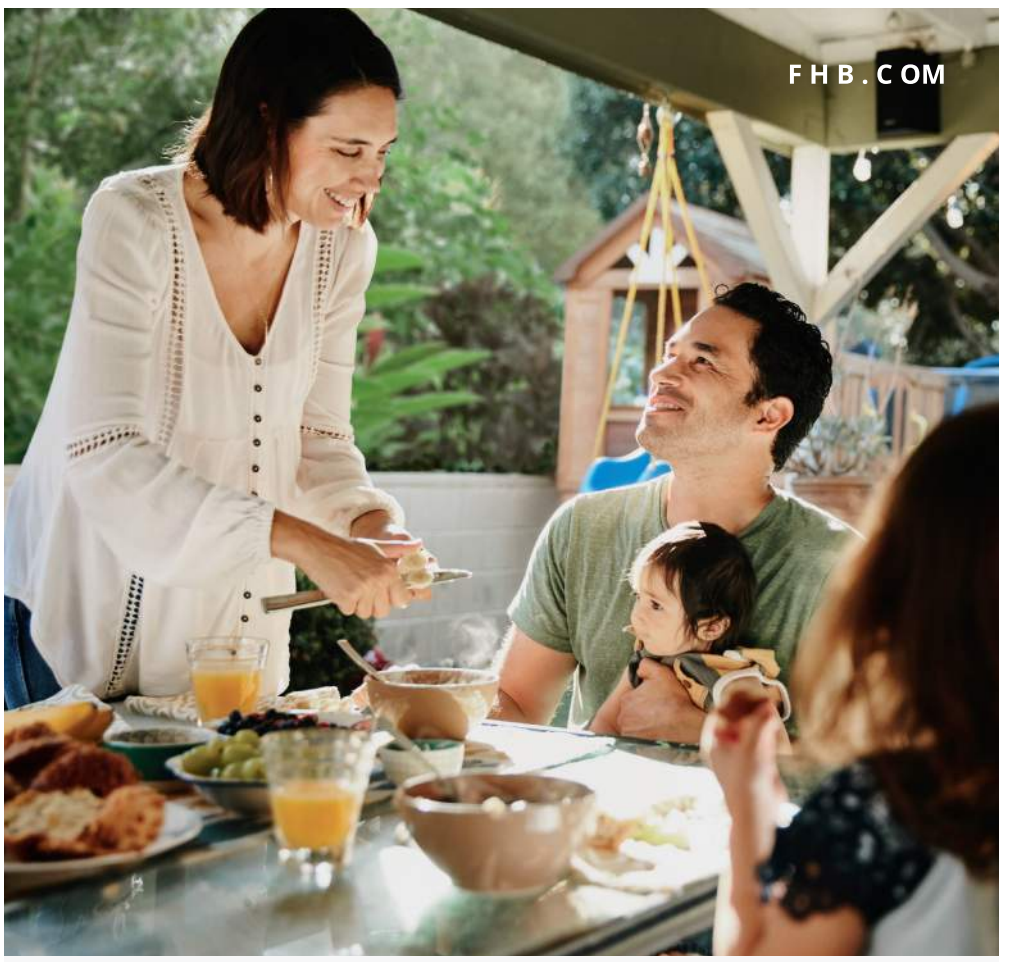
Muña sees no issue with providing financial aid to NMC students since the college is accredited and must follow WASC expectations.

"We want to help them [NMTI], but we need to know what they're going to do," Muña said. He suggested that NMTI can also secure accreditation from WASC.

Both believe that the NMTI will soon reach out to SHEFA for assistance

Acting SHEFA board chair Juan Tenorio said he understands the two members' concerns about this matter and that SHEFA will need to communicate with NMTI about moving toward accreditation.

CNMI Public Law 20-92 converted NMTI into a government entity last February. The group was a private, non-profit school before the passage of P.L. 20-92. ***(Marc A. Venus)***



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CUC's fuel charge is unchanged this August

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s fuel adjustment charge remains at $0.18803 per kilowatt-hour for the month of August.

Although there has been a slight increase in the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing from July 2019 to August 2019 as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the increase did not equal or exceed a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. ***(PR)***

A1C Marquez finishes his basic training

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Carl James A. Marquez recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Marquez is the son of Imelda Alvarez and Carlito Marquez of Saipan. He is a 2017 graduate of Marianas High School. ***(PR)***

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Triple J offers perpetual scholarship

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Triple J Enterprises will start offering a perpetual scholarship to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute culinary arts student who is chosen to receive the Robert H. Jones Award.

During the fourth annual NMTI fundraising gala last Friday, Robert H. Jones, founder and chairman of the Triple J Enterprises, announced that he will start offering a perpetual scholarship of $1,000 to whoever receives the award that's been named after him.

In a short interview with Jones, he said the perpetual scholarship would give students in the culinary program the incentive to vie for the award.

Jones also hopes that the scholarship will encourage students to pursue higher education after NMTI.

"What we planned to do is give students more incentives to work hard and get that culinary award each year because giving them the award is one thing but encouraging them to go further to improve their education and even go to college, to look for opportunities to improve and extend their education, that's the reason we gave $1,000," he said.

The recipient of the Robert H. Jones Award and the first recipient of the scholarship is Ken Tanzawa.

NMTI CEO Agnes McPhetres said the announcement of the award is a great example of how the private sector and the educational system works hand in hand in the CNMI to provide the best education that will later be reflected in the workforce.

In an interview with Ross Manglona, NMTI director for Continuing Education, he said NMTI is excited because they didn't exopect Triple J to give out the perpetual scholarship.

Manglona explained that the process of picking the winner of the award is simple and lies solely with the instructor of the program.

The instructors decide who their best students are and most of them are already in the workforce. For instance, Tanzawa is already in the workforce "so in order for you to qualify, you need to be in the workforce. That's one of the basic requirements," he said.

The Robert H. Jones Award was created to honor Jones.

Robert "Bob" Jones, founder of Triple J Enterprises, announces the first perpetual Triple J scholarship to the recipient of the Robert H. Jones Award during the Northern Marianas Trades Institute fundraising gala last Friday.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Faisao nominated to represent women, Carolinians on NMTI board

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigation Committee is now reviewing the nomination of Carmelita Faisao, who has been named to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute's board of trustees to represent women and Carolinians.

The committee, led by Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), reviewed Faisao's nomination yesterday and, according to Cruz, his committee found no reason to deny her nomination as yet.

"She is very committed. I believe we need people that know what they are doing. We don't only base decisions on their résumé, but also on their commitment," he said in an interview.

Carmelita Faisao, center, poses for a photo with her relatives after the yesterday's Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigation public hearing.
ERWIN ENCINARES

"…I cannot say now that everything is okay," he said, emphasizing that changes can be made at the last minute.

In a separate interview with *Saipan Tribune,* Faisao said this may be her first time to be nominated to the NMTI board but she looks forward to supporting local businesses.

"I am looking forward to collaborating more with all the businesses out there, making sure we have jobs for our [students] after training," she said.

Faisao is a project and operations manager at DFS T Galleria in Garapan.

A statement on the Office of the Governor's social media page noted that Faisao possesses "the diligence and work ethic to promote NMTI and boasts a very diverse background in community service and cultural arts."

"The [Torres] administration believes that…[Faisao possesses] the skills and temperament to build our workforce capacity and expresses its full confidence in their ability to serve," the social media page further said.

BOMB

From Page 1

tigation.

The Ports Police, aided by dog sniffers from the K-9 unit, searched the airport and found nothing suspicious.

According to a CPA statement, yesterday the FBI contacted the anonymous caller around 10am and, after speaking with the caller, the FBI determined that the threat was not credible. The statement did not indicate how the FBI traced which number to call.

The all-clear was declared at the airport at 11:09am. The CPA statement said that, after doing a thorough search of the premises, CPA Ports Police determined that the airport's terminal premises were all clear.

There were no reports of injuries. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MONGOLIA

From Page 1

during the Commonwealth Casino Commission's hearing yesterday at the commission's office at the Springs Plaza on Middle Road.

Poon also disclosed that he himself is getting the furniture ready to ship to the island for the anticipated opening of six of the 15 suites or VIP villas of Imperial Palace this Sept. 30.

"It's very exciting…seeing so many activities, especially for the landscaping area," said Poon in his presentation on the construction's progress.

He said Phase 1 of the project—the resort hotel—is in progress and the forecast completion is Dec. 31, 2019.

Poon said that, in July, they had 374 H2-B workers and 212 subcontractor workers, for a total of 586 construction workers. Poon said 15 others are management staff.

He said their Thai workers' H2-B visa application is pending for the visa schedule appointment at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok. The U.S. Embassy has yet to schedule the visa appointments of these Thai workers, Poon said.

In response to CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero's question as to why the U.S. Embassy has yet to schedule the appointments, Poon said he does not have information on that and neither does their Human Resources Division.

Poon said they are talking about 40 to 50 Thai workers in that H2-B visa application.

IPI successfully hired 19 Thai workers a few months ago.

Right now, with the H2-B visa applications of their Thai workers still pending, Poon said their alternative is the H2-B workers from Mongolia, who will report for work beginning this month, August. He said about 40 H2-B workers from Mongolia are arriving this week and next week. He said the first batch of workers from Mongolia will arrive this week and that they are now getting their tickets to fly here.

"They are the skilled labor. So the first batch would be more like the supervisors," Poon said.

The second batch is composed of workers that "will basically follow the supervisors."

When asked by acting CCC chair Joseph C. Reyes if IPI is also bringing in workers from Turkey, Poon confirmed that they also considering that.

"We are working with our people over there. Yes, we are," he said.

Poon assured that these workers will only be here temporarily. Reyes replied that it's up to IPI as it is none of his business.

CCC executive director Deleon Guerrero pointed out that it now appears that IPI has 686 construction employees. He asked Poon if that number is enough to finish six of the 15 planned villas by Sept. 30. Poon said that it's definitely not enough, which is why they continue to hire more workers.

With respect to IPI's construction milestones schedule, Poon said Phase 2, the tower hotel, is in progress and that the forecast completion date is June 30, 2020.

He said Phase 3, the VIP gaming and sky level, started last Jan. 6 and that the forecast completion date is Sept. 30, 2020.

He said Phase 4, the Beach Club, started last Jan. 10, with a forecast completion date of Dec. 31, 2020.

Poon said Addison Global Interiors, a construction company based in the U.S. mainland, is doing all the high-end stonework for the presidential villas and extended suites.

Poon said the task is to complete the work before the Sept. 30 target opening of the six suites.

Outside the main building, 50 to 60 workers are doing landscape work and building retaining walls. Poon said the retaining stone walls are eventually being readied for the Sept. 30 opening.

Poon said the dragon chandelier installation has been completed, but they still have a lot of testing and commissioning work to do. He said they are actually ahead of schedule with the dragon chandelier installation.

He described the dragon chandelier as "a perfect showcase" to investors they flew in last week. He said they are planning to have a program to officially unveil the dragon chandelier.

For the resort hotel, Poon said the revolving door installation at the hotel's main lobby is now complete, while the stone floor polishing and crystallization work are in progress.

He said interior fit out is in progress at the east wing VIP gaming rooms.

Poon said the marble stone installation work is in progress at the east wing suite.

He himself is working right now on furniture inventory to make sure that they are getting all the furniture ready to ship sometime this month in preparation for the Sept. 30 partial opening of the VIP villas.

As for the hotel tower, he said people are talking about IPI hiring Italians and Australians. "Yes, they are here and they are working very hard to try to get the building façade complete. Again, it is in progress," he saidt.

Poon said Cavcorp Australia Pty Ltd., an Australian company, has 60 Italian workers working on the building's façade.

He also disclosed that earth work is in progress on the main swimming pool.

Poon said the Department of Public Works granted the employee dining room kitchen a conditional certificate of occupancy permit.

The Division of Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also conducted a storm water inspection at the IPI project site last Monday.

Last April, IPI chief executive officer and president Mark Brown disclosed plans to partially open the Beach Villa Resort, a seafront development beside the casino complex.

MV

From Page 1

try of judgment for the full $400,000 jointly and severally against the individual principals of MV *Luta*.

It also provides for payment to be made over the next five years.

"The settlement represents a victory for the people of the Commonwealth," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

He said the OAG's Civil Division staff worked hard in obtaining a judgment and to ensure that the individuals who benefitted from the loan were held personally accountable.

"With the resolution of the case, the Commonwealth will be able to look to their personal assets in the event they breach the settlement agreement. The Commonwealth looks forward to the recovery of public funds and we can now put this matter behind us," Manibusan added.

The lawsuit began in 2017 against the company's principals.

The Commonwealth alleged that public funds were transmitted to Luta Mermaid without first reaching an agreement on repayment and sought recovery of the funds. ***(OAG)***

COIN

From Page 1

U.S. Mint director David Ryder said that $1 coins are still in production in the U.S. mainland but circulation is limited and deciding which coins should be distributed across the United States is a decision made only by the U.S. Federal Reserve.

"I didn't quite frankly know that there weren't $1 coins here in the CNMI. It is not a coin that circulates very brightly as it is a coin of very small distribution," he said. "It is still in use in the [U.S.] mainland but not widely because it is not a popular product. People don't use it and that's probably the reason why you don't see it here."

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman said he hasn't seen $1 coins in the CNMI. "But if the coin reaches the islands and start circulating, then we should recognize it as it is an official coin of the United States of America," he said.

"If businesses and commercial establishments encounter such a coin, especially when a customer uses a $1 coin to pay for something, and they are unsure whether they should accept it or not, they can call the Department of Commerce at (670) 664-3000 and we will gladly help them with their inquiry," he added.

The ones currently in circulation in the U.S. mainland have the faces of America's sixth and 12th president John Quincy Jones and Zachary Taylor, respectively.

Ryder said the U.S. Mint has manufactured millions of them over the years and many of the early ones are stored in their vaults. "Hopefully, one day, some might come here."

CNMI welcomes Veteran's Affairs chief

Veteran Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie made a short visit to the CNMI yesterday, during which he met with CNMI leaders, visited veterans' facilities on Saipan, and participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the American Memorial Park.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and Superintendent of NMI and Guam National Parks Barbara Alberti were among those at the wreath-laying ceremony.

Wilkie said this was his second trip to the islands.

In his remarks at the wreath-laying ceremony, where he paid his respect to those who fought in the Battle of Saipan and in World War II, Wilkie honored the sacrifices of not just the American troops, sailors, Marines, and airmen but also the "tens of thousands of ordinary people who were in the battlefield."

He pointed out that that the loss of lives in battle usually equals two lives lost: the life in battle and the life that would have been a pastor, mother, father, grandfather, doctor, lawyer, or school teacher. "…We often don't think about the cost of war beyond battle," he added.

Wilkie's father served in the 82nd Airborne Division and idolized Gen. Matthew Ridgeway, who led the victories in North Africa and Sicily. Ridgeway also planned the assault on Adolf Hitler's fortress in Germany.

"For veterans, no matter what conflicts they serve in, no matter how they serve, it is our duty to pray for their sake," Wilkie said.

He thanked CNMI leaders and its people for their courtesy of his visit and the National Park Services for keeping a great place to honor those who fought for the liberty of the CNMI.

He declined to speak to the media. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

Sanpoen group bids farewell to CNMI

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A visiting Japanese exchange group said its final farewell to the CNMI last Tuesday, with the Saipan Mayor's Office hosting a farewell party for the group at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan poolside.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang himself personally thanked the group for visiting the CNMI for the 41st time and hopes the tradition will continue with the Saipan mayors who would succeed him.

He also thanked the host families for opening their homes to these students while they were on island and wishes that more families can open their homes for the next Sanpoen visit.

Sanpoen high priest Kansho Kayaki thanked Apatang for once again inviting the group to the CNMI and hopes that the friendship between the group and the CNMI remains strong. He understands that Super Typhoon Yutu devastated Saipan and that the islands are still recovering.

"I am very thankful to the citizens of the CNMI and the consul of Japan for being here in support of our program," Kayaki said.

He expressed regret that the CNMI was not able to send a group of students to Japan last February as the CNMI was still recovering from Yutu. He hopes to see CNMI students again when they visit Japan in February 2020.

This year's visiting group consisted of 10 students and eight chaperones.

The students themselves enjoyed seeing the island's scenery and tasting its many delicacies. One of the students, Keely McGreevy Ogiwara, a 12-year-old Japanese-American participant, loved the beaches and the hospitality of the people. She thanked her host family for treating her as if she were their own child, and thought Saipan was fun.

Sayuri Tami, 11, who enjoyed the local food and playing in the beach, hopes to come back next year. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Temporary office hours at KHS

Kagman High School has temporarily modified its office hours due to a power disruption on the campus that began on July 23. The repair process will bring the campus back to power as soon as Aug. 6. Until then, the office will be open from 7:30am to 3:30pm, Monday to Friday (excluding austerity Friday).

The public is being encouraged to plan for two to three days to process all requests that require printed documents, such as the enrollment verification, official transcript, and withdrawals.

As soon as the power is restored to campus, Kagman High School will resume normal government hours of operation from 7:30am to 4:30pm. ***(PR)***

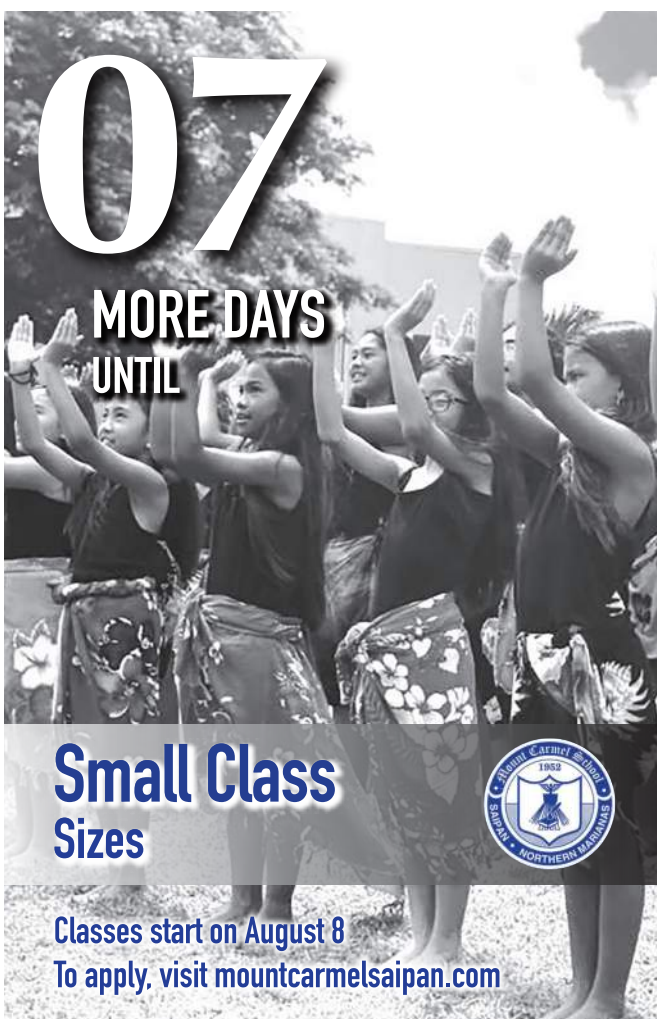
SCC, ITS to host business seminar

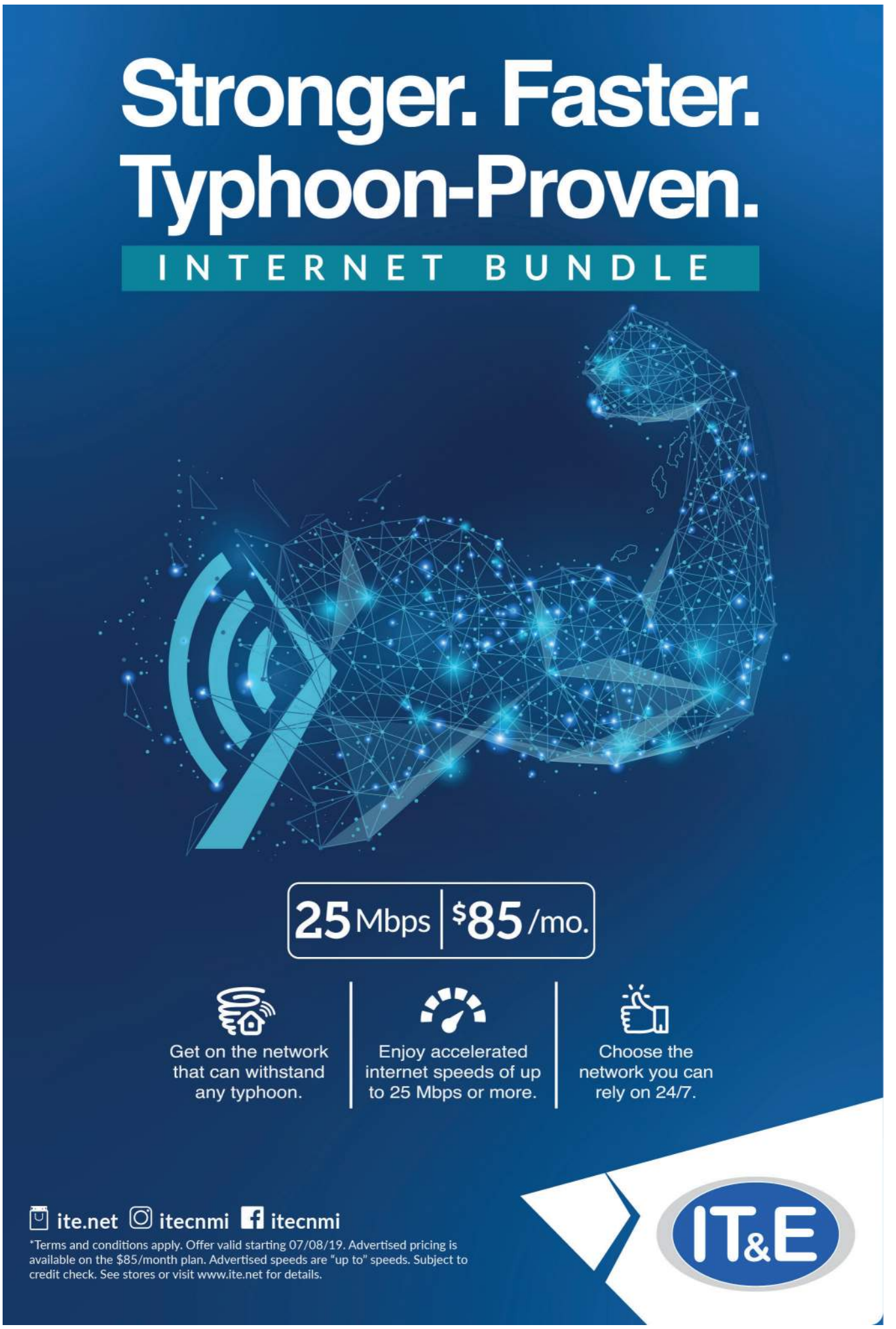
The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions will be holding seminar on Sept. 10, titled Jeffrey Gitomer's *Little Gold Book of YES! Attitude*, from 8am to 4pm at the Latte Stone Room of Kanoa Resort Saipan.

Participants will receive the bestselling *Yes! Attitude* book by Jeffrey Gitomer and other training materials (total value of $125 in materials to take home). Breakfast refreshments, lunch, and afternoon refreshments are included.

The fee is $299.99 for Chamber members, and $349.99 for non-members. Sign up before Aug. 7 and receive $50 off per participant.

To register or for more information, contact Noelani McMahon at (670) 234-7150 or email coordinator2@saipann-chamber.com. ***(PR)***

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USCIS announces two grant opportunities

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced yesterday it is accepting applications for two funding opportunities under the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program that will provide up to $10 million in grants for citizenship preparation programs in communities across the country.

These competitive grant opportunities are open to organizations that prepare lawful permanent residents for naturalization and promote civic assimilation through increased knowledge of English, U.S. history, and civics.

USCIS seeks to expand availability of high-quality citizenship and assimilation services throughout the country with these two grant opportunities:

■ Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services. This grant opportunity will fund up to 36 organizations that offer both citizenship instruction and naturalization application services to lawful permanent residents. Applications are due by Aug. 13, 2019.

■ The Refugee and Asylee Assimilation Program. This grant opportunity will fund up to four organizations to provide individualized services to lawful permanent residents who entered the United States under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program or were granted asylum. These services will help them to obtain the skills and knowledge required for successful citizenship and to foster a sense of belonging and attachment to the United States. This grant strives to promote long-term civic assimilation of those lawful permanent residents who have identified naturalization as a goal, yet may need additional information, instruction and services to attain it. Applications are due by Aug. 13, 2019.

USCIS will take into account various program and organizational factors, including past grantee performance, when making final award decisions. In addition, all funded grant recipients must enroll in E-Verify as a regular employer within 30 days of receiving the award and remain as a participant in good standing with E-Verify throughout the entire period of grant performance. Funded grant recipients will be required to verify all new hires at hiring locations performing work on a program or activity that is funded in whole or in part under the grant.

USCIS expects to announce award recipients in September.

Since it began in 2009, the USCIS Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program has awarded approximately $82 million through 393 grants to immigrant-serving organizations in 38 states and the District of Columbia.

To apply for one of these funding opportunities, visit grants.gov. For additional information on the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program for fiscal year 2019, visit uscis.gov/grants or email the USCIS Office of Citizenship at citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov. ***(PR)***

AGRICULTURE FAIR MARC A. VENUS

Arnold Route of the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services shows a parent and her children a sample of a Monarch butterfly during last Saturday's 36th Agriculture Fair at the Garapan Central Park's Roundhouse.

Military trainings set

SANTA RITA, Guam—Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training from 11am to 11:55pm on July 29 through Aug. 1 at the Dandan-Malojloj training site in Inarajan.

HSC-25 will also conduct training at Radio Barrigada during the following dates and times:

■ From 6pm to 1am, July 30-31

■ From 3pm to 1am, July 31 through Aug. 1

■ From 6pm to 11:55pm, Aug. 1

Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. The public should be advised that routine helicopter training, often accompanied with the use of blanks, can occur during these trainings.

The 94th Civil Support Team of the Guam National Guard, 1224th Engineer Support Company, and 442nd Infantry Regiment will also be conducting training at Radio Barrigada during the following dates:

■ 94th CST, from July 29 through Aug. 2

■ 1224th ESC, from Aug. 2 to 4

■ 442nd INF, from Aug. 4 to 6

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training from 11am to 1pm on July 29 through Aug. 1 at the island of Farallon de Medinilla.

The general location of the training will be within a 12-nautical-mile radius of the island.

The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises from 3pm to 9pm on Aug. 1, within a 10-nautical-mile radius of the following coordinates: 13˚26”N/145˚08”E and 13˚42”N/144˚36”E.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. ***(PR)***

The following is a list of customers with accounts on deposit with First Hawaiian Bank: Checking accounts which have been inactive for 6 months or more; and Savings, Maximizer, and Money Market Accounts which have been inactive for 24 months or more as of 7/15/2019.The funds from these accounts are scheduled to be transferred to the Commonwealth Treasurer during the month of Oct 2019. This is in compliance with the amendment to Section 20-20.4-005 (b) of the Northern Mariana Island Administrative Code Title 20 Department of Commerce Regulations. If your name is listed, please contact the Customer Consultant or Service Manager at First Hawaiian Bank, Gualo Rai or Oleai Branch, as soon as possible.

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Guam helo group rescues distressed sailor at sea

Pictured from left: Naval Air Crewman 2nd Class Preston Smith, Naval Air Crewman 2nd Class Dominic Thomas, Lt. Nathan Gordon and Lt. j.g. Caleb French pose for a photograph after completing a search and rescue mission as part of "Island Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25.

SPECIAL-COURTESY KIRSTEN KING, HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON 25

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—The Guam-based "Island Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 responded to a civilian in distress aboard a sailboat last June 24.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam notified HSC-25 after the civilian utilized a satellite phone to request assistance. The sailor was injured three days earlier while sailing through a severe thunderstorm aboard the 32-foot sailboat approximately 100 nautical miles west of Guam.

HSC-25 Search and Rescue, led by Aircraft Commander Lt. Nathan Gordon, was on scene within two hours of the initial call.

"We were told the gentleman's health had diminished significantly over a time span of three days," said Gordon. "The satellite phone was a key tool in today's rescue. His ability to contact the U.S. Coast Guard and pass us a precise location greatly decreased search time, getting him the medical care he desperately needed. The crew worked well together and the whole process was smooth due to the aid up front from my Co-Pilot Lt. j.g. Caleb French, our crew chief at the hoist AWS2 Dominic Thomas, our rescue swimmer AWS2 Preston Smith, and the medical support from our SAR Medical Technician, HN Nolan Turner and HSC-25's Flight Surgeon Lt. Erik Kumetz. The medical team was able to immediately push IV fluids to stabilize him until we reached Guam."

The incident was the 16th emergency call to HSC-25 by U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam this year and marks 14 recoveries during search and rescue and medical evacuations in 2019.

"It is an honor to serve with the hardworking sailors of HSC-25," said Cdr. Christopher Carreon, executive officer, HSC-25. "This rescue represents how hard each sailor works to provide full mission capable aircraft so we are ready to support the search and rescue mission of Guam and the CNMI."

HSC-25 provides a multi-mission rotary wing capability for units in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations and maintains a Guam-based 24-hour search and rescue and medical evacuation capability, directly supporting U.S. Coast Guard and Joint Region Marianas. HSC-25 is the Navy's only forward-deployed MH-60S expeditionary squadron. ***(PR)***

Bank of Hawaii

NOTICE OF INACTIVE BANK ACCOUNTS

The following checking and savings accounts have been inactive for six months or more with Bank of Hawaii. The account owners should immediately contact Bank of Hawaii Gualo Rai Branch at (670) 322-4200. Otherwise, the funds of each inactive account will be transferred to the CNMI Treasurer by October 1, 2019 (pursuant to Public Law 18-69, Section 4(b), The Commonwealth Escheatment Ad of 2013 (The "Act") and Department of Commerce regulations at NMAC 20-20.4. After such transfer, all inquires pertaining to the account should be directed to the Office of Banking Division, Commonwealth Department of Commerce.

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MYPros members learn basics of virtual reality

By MARC A. VENUS
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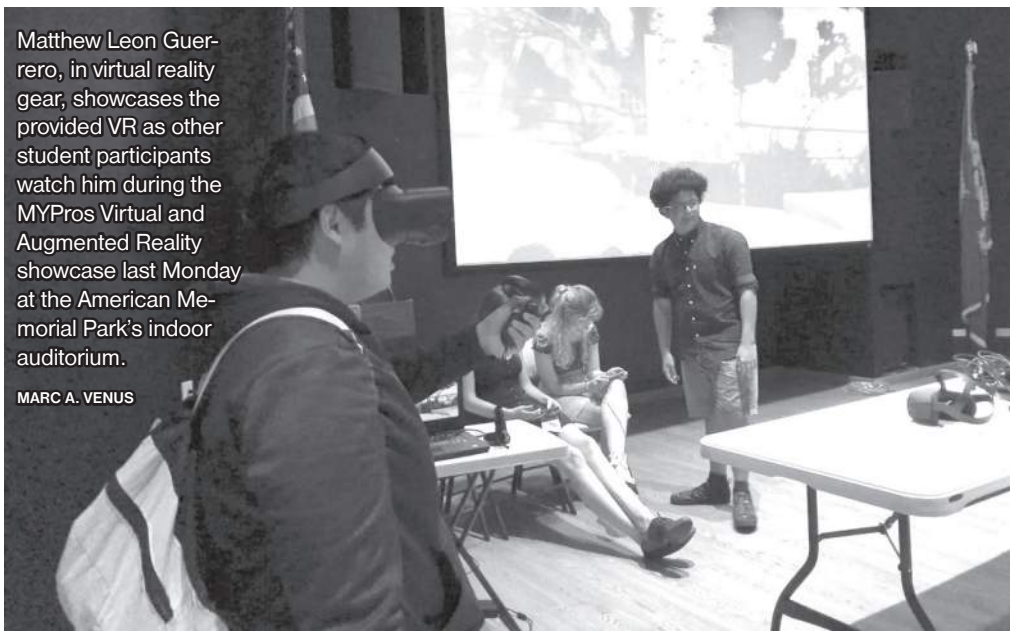
REPORTER

Young professionals in the CNMI were introduced last Monday to the concept of virtual reality and augmented reality at the American Memorial Park's indoor auditorium to give them an idea of its potential for innovative applications.

In the VR and AR showcase headed by MYPros interim director Chris Delos Santos and Sean Wybrant from Open Reef Innovations, some members of the Marianas Young Professionals, or MYPros, became familiar with the idea of virtual reality and its many possibilities for businesses.

The two just came off from holding virtual reality and augmented reality classes at Kagman High School from last July 8 to July 26.



Matthew Leon Guerrero, in virtual reality gear, showcases the provided VR as other student participants watch him during the MYPros Virtual and Augmented Reality showcase last Monday at the American Memorial Park's indoor auditorium.

MARC A. VENUS

Wybrant said said the students went through four hours of instruction every day for three weeks focusing on VR, AR, photogrammetry (the art of creating 3D models from pictures), applications on 360-degree photography, programming, and more.

The students also learned to create VR experiences for commercial applications for the JZ Group Inc., creating a virtual reality real estate app for the CNMI that could possibly be used by real estate companies on the island.

A total of nine students participated in this showcase, with a couple of students attending the event for the second time. Delos Santos and Wybrant said that they preferred keeping the number of participants low so they could delve deeper into the subject.

Recent Marianas High School graduate Matthew Leon Guerrero, who is planning to major in Computer Sciences at the Western Oregon University, said this showcase was his second; he attended last year's showcase. He noted that this was the first time the group focused on VR and AR and its many possibilities for businesses in the future, with society advancing into the digital age. Leon Guerrero said he and another member of the group are planning to create a VR experience for those interested in attending WOU.

Delos Santos thanked the JZ Group Inc. for being a main sponsor of this year's event

Wybrant is from Colorado and teaches at the William J. Palmer High School. He met with MYPros executive director Gerard van Gils during the 2017 Teacher of the Year conference in the U.S. mainland and then connected about the possibility of introducing VR and AR to MYPros participants.

For more information about MYPros, email them at exec.g@mypros.org or visit the group's website at mypros.org.

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Opinion

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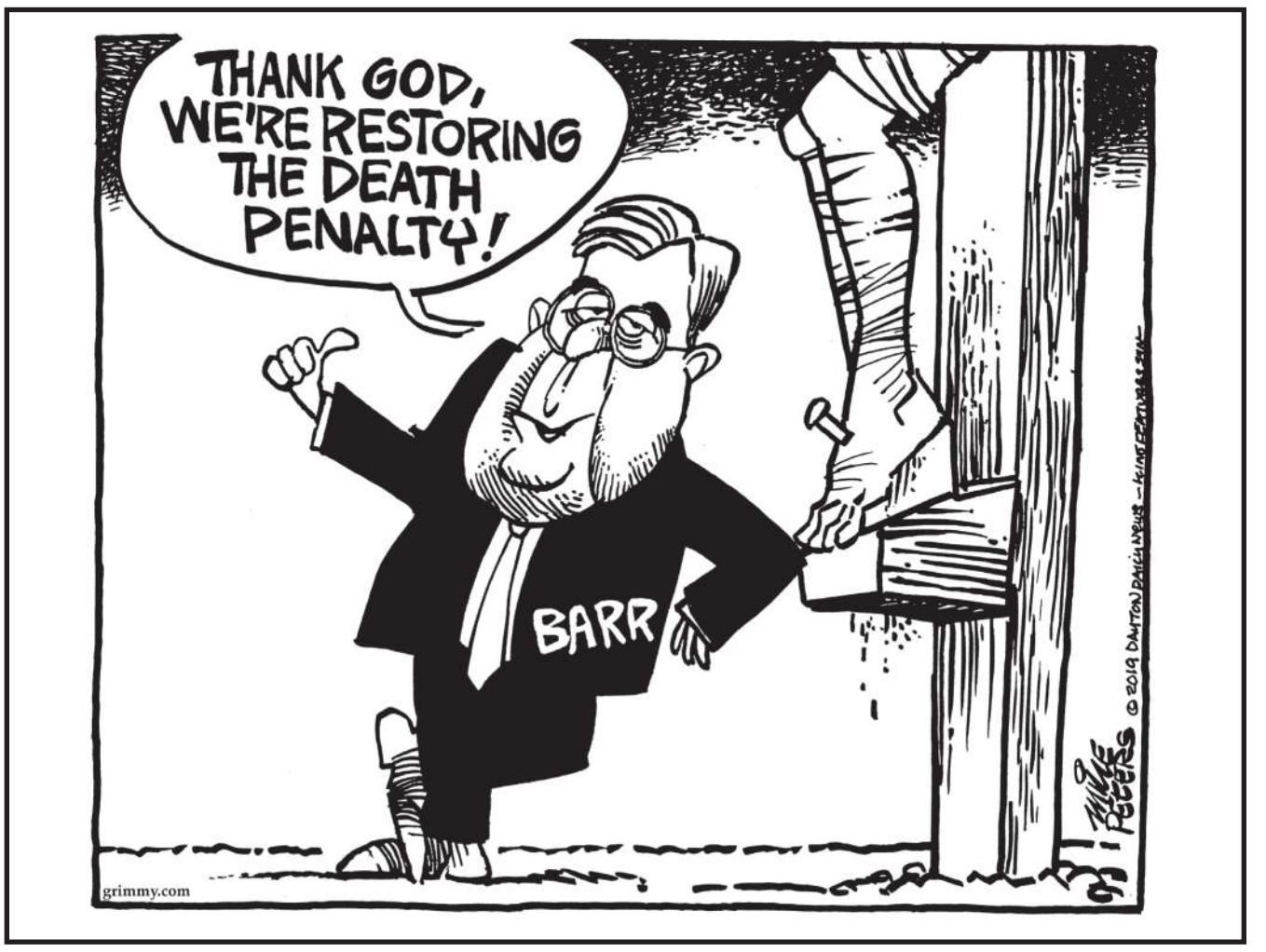

EDITORIAL

American carnage

Brownsville, Brooklyn, is 2,540 miles away from Gilroy, Calif., as the crow flies. The two places this weekend were linked by a grim coincidence: family friendly festivals torn apart by the all-too-American sound of gunfire.

At a time when the nation is divided, the sickness of gun violence—including mass, indiscriminate gun violence—unites us.

Saturday night in Brooklyn at the annual Old Timers Festival, 12 people were shot, one killed. Two gunmen, two guns, widespread hysteria. On Sunday in Gilroy at the annual Garlic Festival, a 19-year-old with an assault rifle he had bought legally in another state just weeks before killed three people, including a 6-year-old and a 12-year-old, and injured a dozen more.

Susan Meyers and husband Michael Oshan listen to a hymn during a vigil for victims of a Sunday evening shooting that left three people dead at the Gilroy Garlic Festival, Monday, July 29, 2019, in Gilroy, Calif. AP

Nor were these the only mass shootings of the weekend. There were eight of them. Eight people killed. Forty-six injured. And those numbers understate the trauma. These events scar not just victims, but family members, witnesses and communities, forever.

Does arming untrained good guys fix anything? Hundreds of NYPD officers in Brooklyn to police the Old Timers Festival couldn't stop the mayhem. In Gilroy, police took down the 19-year-old attacker within 60 seconds after he opened fire. Still, a troubled young man with a high-powered weapon had the means to take many lives.

So far, our answers to this epidemic—security guards, active shooter trainings for kindergarteners—are nothing but Band-Aids on bullet wounds.

Stop pretending otherwise. When troubled individuals can easily acquire the means to kill and maim en masse, America's gun laws need serious surgery.

(c)2019 New York Daily News

When my fingers stopped cooperating, I had to rethink making art

By AMY GOLDMAN KOSS
Los Angeles Times

Amy Goldman Koss is a contributing writer to Los Angeles Times *Opinion*.

My hands were such good sports for so many decades that I didn't even know they were unhappy until they quit working. At first I was affronted by their betrayal. But in spite of my indignation, the chopsticks rattled to the floor, the coffee cup smashed. Sleeping in any position but corpse-at-a-viewing woke me with sizzling pain.

I feel a little sheepish, remembering all I'd demanded of my hands. Filling sketch pads and walls with intricate drawings, gripping a hair-thin pen, a tiny paintbrush. Illustrating entire books in minuscule stippled dots. But I'd thought we were in it together, body and soul. All for one.

When my fingers began twisting in odd directions, and the joints bulged and throbbed, and my own signature became unrecognizable, I figured it was temporary.

After being young for so long, I assumed my hands would heal, as other injuries and illnesses had until then. I was annoyed by the pain and inconvenience, but tried to wait patiently for my hands to return to their former selves, willing and able to comfortably do as I wished without complaint. Hold things, pick things up, open containers, turn pages, button shirts, write longhand.

Ha!

When it sunk in that my life with easy hands was over, I fell into mourning. Morbid lasts were everywhere. Had I sewn on my last button? How soon will I tie my last shoe? I thought about the last time my dad played with the symphony, the night his violin fell from his hand during a concert. I don't think it ever left its velvet-lined case again.

Every few years for decades, I painted new murals on my kitchen and bathroom walls. Now, looking at them, I wonder what I would have done differently if I'd known these would be my final murals. Would knowing have stifled me, put too much pressure on each brushstroke and color choice?

Had I known my hands weren't going to last as long as my will, would I have paced myself and pampered them? Would I still have been able to happily lose myself in days spreading tiny ink dots across a page? Knitting into the night? Pulling weeds? Typing? Making mosaics?

I grieved over ideas for new art projects, over the mobile I couldn't construct for my new grandson and the sweater I couldn't knit him. During the Marie Kondo neatening rage, I longed to tear my joyless old clothes and weary tablecloths into strips to braid into a rag rug. But that would have required hands, so I didn't. When I inherited my mother-in-law's enormous bead collection, I shoved it into a cupboard and closed the door.

Self pity, too, gets old. Eventually I realized I still have hands, and as crappy and arthritic as they are, they're better than they'll be tomorrow. The mourning broke.

If my childhood spent coloring was Act 1 of my life in art, this is Act 3. In this one I'm learning that hands play a bigger part in drawing and painting than I knew. When they were painless extensions of my brain, the decision to paint a line, and the painting of that line, were one and the same. Now, I load a brush with red paint for a mouth, and my hand applies it approximately where and how I'd intended it. Close enough.

Is this what it was like for kids who couldn't color inside the lines? Was it their hands that didn't cooperate?

To compromise with my aging body, I've had to acknowledge the balance of power has shifted. My hands and my will have a different relationship now. It's my hands' turn to call the shots after all those eons of it being the other way around. I wish they still wanted to do what I want, but they don't. Can't.

I'm not the first artist to adjust my art to changing circumstances. When Matisse could no longer stand at his easel he switched to producing his marvelous cutouts. Ignoring the impulse to create is not an acceptable way to spend however much life remains.

Turns out there's something to be said for a change in tempo. Historically, I began projects impulsively and worked frantically until they were done. Now I work only as long and often as my hands allow. When my hands insist that I stop, I have time to think about my next step. The pauses make for artistic decisions I wouldn't have made otherwise. Being forced to stand and move away from the project to let the pain subside allows me to return to the work with fresh eyes.

The experience of creating in the third act is not the same, but it's not all bad—and it's better than it will ever be again.

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A lesson from FaceApp

By HAL E. HERSHFIELD
Los Angeles Times

Hal E. Hershfield is an associate professor of marketing and behavioral decision making at the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

When given the choice, about 85% of people say they would not want to know about some negative event far in the future. Yet in recent days more than 150 million people around the globe have downloaded FaceApp, which allows users to see how they might age in real life—wrinkles and all.

Despite widespread privacy concerns over the uploading of photos to the app, millions purposely sought out a program that marks a personal passage of time.

Many had fun with it, joking that the app made them look like "Moses on his 584th birthday" or claiming they left comments like "love the FaceApp old filter!" on their enemies' "normal selfies."

Beneath the humor of playfully gazing into the future is a serious subject: How do we learn to relate to our future selves? It's important that we try to because it could help strengthen the long-term decisions that we make.

More than half of the respondents in a recent survey of 2,800 Americans said they rarely or never thought about what their lives might be like 30 years from now. This isn't necessarily surprising, since most of us are firmly rooted in the present and thinking about the distant future can seem like, well, a distant priority.

Why do we often fail to make sacrifices for the grayer versions of our present-day selves?

My ongoing research might offer an explanation: We tend to think about our future selves as if they are someone else, wholly different from who we are today. A brain-imaging study I co-authored found the brain activity patterns that are evoked by thoughts about a future self are quite similar to the brain activity that arises when we think about other people today.

It may not be problematic to think about our future selves as if they are other people, as long as we see them as people with whom we have a close, emotionally bonded relationship—for those are the sorts of relationships that inspire us to make sacrifices.

But if we think of our future self as another person who is more of a stranger to us, then it makes more sense to do what we want to do right now. Eat the kale and quinoa salad or crush a double-double from In-N-Out? The former is clearly better for our long-term health, but if future me is not a version of myself I identify with—then why should I care about how well his heart functions?

In an effort to short-circuit these empathy gaps, my research collaborators and I have tried to humanize people's future selves in the same way others have tried to humanize charity recipients. Given that a photograph of one hungry child can spark emotional reactions, and cause the viewer to donate, we have presented research participants and everyday people with vivid, visual images of their distant selves.

Doing so seems to help. In one study, we established that people who viewed age-progressed images of themselves expressed increased intentions to save for retirement. And in a recently completed project in Mexico, we found that exposure to future-self representations led more people to contribute to their pensions.

Despite this research, I'm skeptical that the rash of users who have downloaded their aged images will suddenly increase their 401(k) contributions and radically cut back on carbs. The reason? The app isn't paired with an immediate opportunity to change any of these things. Water travels down the easiest available path, and people are no different. If we want to change how people make long-term decisions, then the process for doing so needs to be easy.

The lesson from FaceApp shouldn't be that we need to marry hi-tech visuals with 401(k) enrollment portals. Images may aid imagination, allowing us to envision a future that can be quite difficult to picture.

But we live in an era notorious for dehumanization, in which it can be hard to foster bonds with others—let alone with our distant selves.

The lesson, then, takes the form of a question: What more can be done to prompt us to think about, care for and empathize with who we will one day become?

The Strait of Hormuz: An ancient tinderbox

By ALLEN JAMES FROMHERZ
Los Angeles Times

Allen James Fromherz is a professor of history and director of the Middle East Studies Center at Georgia State University. He is the author of the forthcoming book The Global Gulf, a History.

On July 19, Iranian forces using fast boats and helicopters seized the British tanker Stena Impero and its crew, including many Indian nationals, in the Strait of Hormuz. The British warship Montrose could not arrive in time to stop the nimble capture.

There are, in fact, many other forgotten incidents that could have made similar headlines. A cargo ship is heading for China from a rich Persian Gulf port, but it faces the threat of raids by bands of pirates hiding in the high mountain coves along the strait. There is a group on the gulf shore with plans to take over Mecca, steal the Black Stone and destabilize the whole Islamic world with their preaching and plunder. There are separatists from Baluchistan near the Hormuz. They attack a Portuguese ship washed up on a sandbar on the Persian coast. The British send the battleship Eden to the gulf after a Wahhabi "pirate" attack on a ship leads to the killing of the South Asian crew. There are even reports of European female hostages being held captive in an undisclosed location.

These could all be plausible headlines in 2019. But only the first occurred in the most recent news cycle. The others are historical—evidence of the many centuries of conflict and insurgencies in the Strait of Hormuz, as well as efforts to pacify those threats.

Ships sailing to China from 9th century Siraf, a city on the Persian coast that was the Dubai of its day, had to traverse the perilous strait. The radical raiders of Mecca were not Al Qaeda or Islamic State but the Qarmatians. They took the Black Stone of Mecca, moving it to the gulf in A.D. 930.

The Nautaques were Baluchis who traded and raided in the gulf, engaging in constant skirmishes there when the Portuguese tried to control commerce through the Hormuz from the 16th to the early 17th century. Around 1819, the British sent the Eden through the Hormuz to the gulf to root out piracy. In his log, Captain Francis Loch wrote about smaller local vessels near the strait running circles around him, a predicament similar to "asymmetric warfare" that takes place today.

The British, confronting this chaos, eventually embraced a new strategy that would last well into the 20th century. They came to realize that simply attacking threats would never be enough to enforce security through the Strait of Hormuz, let alone throughout the Persian Gulf.

They knew that local actors, familiar with the shoals and desolate fjords in the gulf, could run circles around the bulky European ships built for Atlantic storms. But while those warships could not stop all piracy, they could hold parties on the shore responsible. To do that required building alliances and gathering intelligence.

In 1820, the British implemented this policy, which involved identifying specific partners or sheiks, individuals who would be held responsible for attacks from their territories. They also launched a major effort to understand both the geography of the gulf and the human and historical context of the region.

By 1853, the sheiks and Britain had signed the Perpetual Maritime Truce. Piracy declined dramatically. Over time, the British mapped the thousands of miles of obscure inlets and islands of the gulf and created a series of tomes called "The Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf," which was completed in the early 20th century and remains to this day an unparalleled resource for historians and even policymakers looking for explanations of the complex ties of the ruling families in the region. All of this came out of the need to secure trade through the Strait of Hormuz, which the British largely achieved from 1820 to 1970.

In the 1970s, as the colonial era ended, the British withdrew from the gulf. The Iranian revolution in 1979 overthrew the shah, a U.S. ally, split the gulf in two between Sunni Arab states and Iran, ruled by Shiite Muslim faqihs. The United States, wanting to protect the gulf and the Strait of Hormuz from a resurgent Iran and Soviet intervention, filled the gap left by British withdrawal.

In 1980, President Carter proclaimed the Carter Doctrine, stating that the U.S. would guarantee the security of commerce and oil through the Persian Gulf. During the 1980s and 1990s, the U.S. intervened over and over again—from securing shipping from Iranian threats in 1988 to protecting oil flows after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The goal through the last several decades has been to prevent any state from completely dominating the gulf. In the 2000s, Sunni-ruled Iraq was taken out of that balance after the Iraq war. The Arab states, though largely relieved by the fall of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, also realized the need to defend against increased Iranian domination and influence.

The 2015 Iranian nuclear deal had the potential to keep nuclear conflict at bay. President Trump's abandonment of the pact, encouraged by Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, has now done severe damage to the security of the Strait of Hormuz, turning a chokepoint into a tinderbox.

But Trump made two good decisions, at odds with the position of senior officials like Pompeo and John Bolton, the national security advisor. He was right not to strike militarily against Iran after it shot down an American drone in June. He is also right to keep channels open to talks with Iran.

While the chances of a breakthrough are diminishing, it is still possible to stop a dangerous bluffing game. On the U.S. side, this would require a willingness to reopen negotiations with Iran on the nuclear deal. Iran and the its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps would also need to make specific concessions such as ending the enrichment of nuclear fuel to weapons-grade and putting a lid on its own threats to shipping in the Hormuz. Iran's recent actions in the strait were reckless, though they may have been an attempt to gain leverage in possible future negotiations.

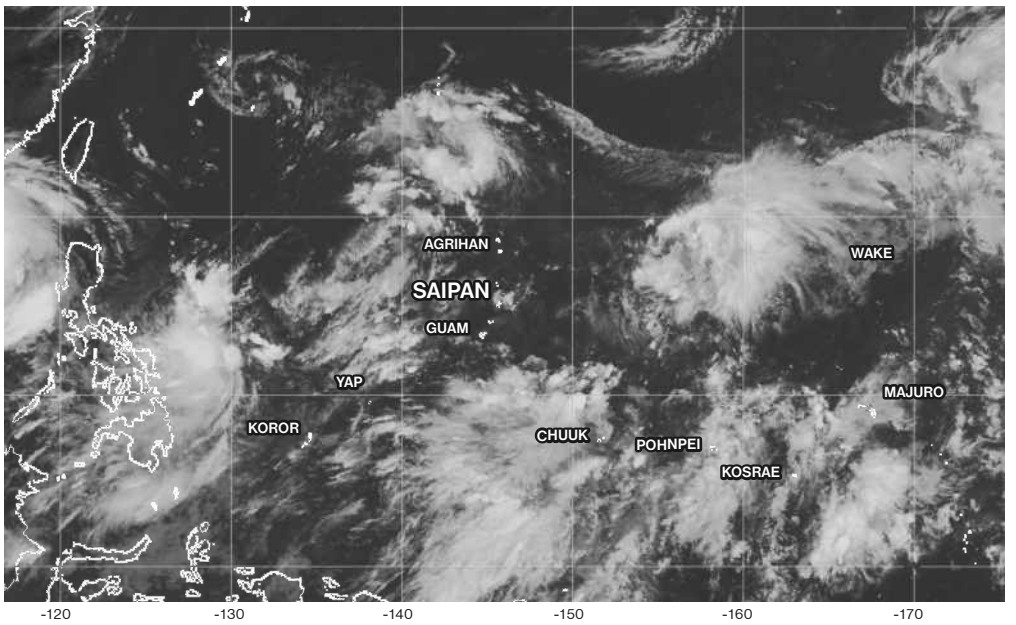
Perhaps more than any other Persian Gulf nation, Iran knows the long and difficult history of conflict on its shores. Its own oil terminal is at Larak Island i n the Strait of Hormuz. No one, least of all the Iranians, would benefit should current tensions escalate to war.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon at Guam.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
89° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 12:58 PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light southerly winds persist across the Marianas with only a few showers seen in the area. Farther from the area, the monsoon trough remains draped across the Philippine Sea and the northern Marianas. Convection has consolidated over the Philippine Sea and to the west of Wake Island around weak circulations in the trough, leaving a pocket of drier weather with fewer clouds.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 48°
Beijing	Thunderstorm	88° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Honolulu	Thunderstorm	89° / 79°
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 59°
Los Angeles	Sunny	81° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	93° / 79°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	81° / 59°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	86° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 68°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	93° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 56°
Seoul	Thunderstorm	90° / 73°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	91° / 79°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	88° / 73°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:30 AM	LOW TIDE	1.35
6:35 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.21
1:56 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.35
8:55 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.16

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Monday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:44 AM	7:00 PM	-
Friday	6:49 AM	7:55 PM	-
Saturday	7:52 AM	8:46 PM	-
Sunday	8:54 AM	9:34 PM	-
Monday	9:53 AM	10:19 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 27, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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LINON DAHLIA 5PC HIGH DINING SET

$179.95
THD - SUCASA 36"X80" SECURITY DOOR WHITE

$59.95
THD - HDX 5 PLASTIC SHELF STORAGE UNIT 36WX18LX72H

$43.95
COLEMAN ISLAND BREEZE 48QT COOLER

$239.95
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THD-HDX 55GAL TOUGH STORAGE TOTE

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$35.95
HONG MA 5FT CENTER FOLDING TABLE

$29.95
HONG MA SQUARE TABLE

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BUY NOW AND SAVE!

CLEARANCE $159.95
MATTRESS QUEEN SIZE 153X203X19CM

CLEARANCE $199.95
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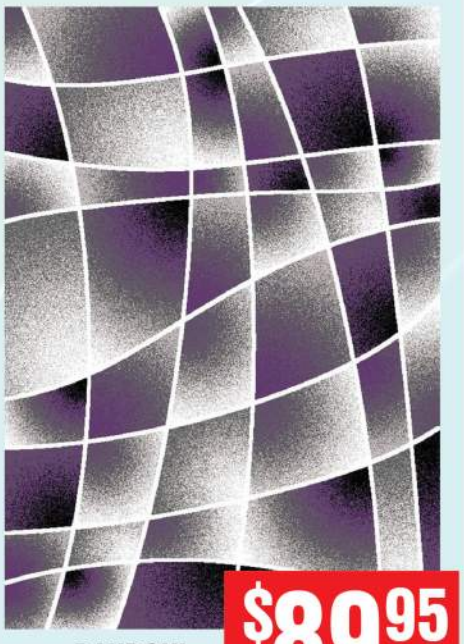

$89.95
DAHDOUL PREMIER 5'X8' AREA RUG

NOW OPEN WEDNESDAY THRU SUNDAY

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$29.95

BRENTWOOD KOOL ZONE 3-SPEED 20" BOX FAN

$14.95

HEADSET HARDWIRE (033)

$4.95

ELICO - 9.5" MOD ERA LIGHT METAL CLOCKS ROUND

$14.95

TV WALL MOUNT 30"-60" (608)

$3.95

4SGM - CLICKS SMALL AUTO UMBRELLA 41"

$9.95

4SGM PICTURE ART 19.68"X19.68"

$9.95

ELICO - BEVELED GLASS SM PARADISE TRIP 12*12

$19.95

ELICO - INSPIRATIONAL VERSE 2 PANEL 12"X24"

ELICO - BATH 2 MINI FRAMED ART WITH BUTTONS 11"X13"

$6.95

$32.95

IGLOO 5-GALLON SEAT TOP COOLER

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4SGM - CAKE STAND WITH GLASS DOME

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4SGM - GLASS PICTHER 37OZ WITH LID

$4.95

4SGM - CHILL FACTOR SLUSHY MAKER

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WFS - 30L SOFT SIDE COOLER

DEAL OF THE WEEK

$139.95

HAIER 3.3 CU.FT. REFRIGERATOR REFURBISHED

BUY NOW

$19.95

BETTER CHEF 7PC DELUXE NON STICK COOKWARE SET

$14.95

BRENTWOOD - COOKWARE" 11" PAN NS COPPER

$14.95

BRENTWOOD 13" WOK FRYER

$14.95

PROCTOR SILEX 2 SLICE TOASTER

$5.95

GIBSON - GH GS ADDLESTONE 8" CAST IRON FRY PAN

$9.95

4SGM FARBERWARE 13" FOLDABLE STEPSTOOL

$229.95

DOREL SANTIAGO 5PC DINING SET

$10.95

4SGM - NF 5 TIER SHOE RACK HOLDS 25 PAIRS

$7.95

DAHDOUL - CURTAIN ROD SMALL (28"-48")

$10.95

DAHDOUL - SHERPA FLANNEL MEGA THROW BORREGO

$6.95

PILLOW 68*44CM 2PC SET (105-2)

$4.95

DAHDOUL - 27"X54" STANDARD TOWEL

$12.95

BABY SWING (YX004-1)

$269.95

PROPEL 12-FT TRAMPOLINE WITH ENCLOSURE

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

MVA donates $10K to weekend golf tournament

Marianas Visitors Authority donates $10,000 to the Governor's Tournament of Champions. From left, Martin Duenas, Ray Villagomez, Eppie Marana, MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo, Marie Sablan, Rochelle Tomokane, Jon Salas, and Jamika Taijeron. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

As part of its commitment to enhance the CNMI's reputation as a prime tourist destination, the Marianas Visitors Authority has donated $10,000 in support of the upcoming Governor's Tournament of Champions, which will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 10, and 11, 2019.

"The Governor's Tournament of Champions is one of the premier events hosted here in the Marianas that appeals to many local and regional golfers," said Priscilla M. Iakopo, MVA managing director. "The funds raised from the tournament are used for beautification projects, as it is important to preserve our islands' natural beauty for our community and visitors to enjoy. Good luck to all participants and we look forward to another successful tournament."

"The Marianas Visitors Authority has always been a key supporter of the tournament every year," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "We are extremely thankful for the agency's continued support."

The 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 10 and 11, 2019. The two-day event is bigger, with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2019 TOC, contact Marie Sablan at 236-2572 or Amanda Ramon at 236- 2530. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(PR)***

DORMANT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

The Dormant Deposit Accounts listed below are currently held at the Bank of Saipan and have been inactive. If you believe you have a claim to any of these accounts, please make your claim at the Chalan Kanoa Branch, Garapan, Tinian or Rota Branch of Bank of Saipan before October 1, 2019.

Pursuant to Public Law 18-69, any unclaimed deposits remaining from this list after October 1, 2019 will be paid to the "CNMI Treasurer" and delivered to the Department of Commerce, Banking Division. Therefore, any claims made after October 1, 2019 must be made at the CNMI Department of Commerce, Banking Division.

Bank of Saipan

AIPING CHEN
T/F JOHN CHEN GALANG
PO BOX 503105
SAIPAN, MP 96950

MODERN INVESTMENT INC
SAIPAN OCEAN VIEW HOTEL
PMB 143 PPP BOX 10000
SAIPAN, MP 96950

GUOYAN ZHAO
PO BOX 503112
SAIPAN, MP 96950

DREAMLAND CORPORATION
PO BOX 503358
SAIPAN, MP 96950

AMERICAN RONG XING CORPORATION
DBA NEW TOM'S WATER COMPANY
PO BOX 10003 PMB 296
SAIPAN, MP 96950

UNITY SENSE (CNMI) LLC
PMB 722 BOX 10003
SAIPAN, MP 96950

EDWARD P VILLAGOMEZ
PO BOX 500007
SAIPAN, MP 96950

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
PO BOX 187
TINIAN, MP 96952

SAIPAN MARKOV TECH. DEV. LLC
PO BOX 500087
SAIPAN, MP 96950

COMMONWEALTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 500378
SAIPAN, MP 96950

DRAGON CHENG PACIFIC CORPORATION
PMB 762 PO BOX 10000
SAIPAN, MP 96950

WANG GUAN INTL INVESTMENT (SAIPAN) LLC
PO BOX 10003 PMB 638
SAIPAN, MP 96950

BERNADINO K LANIYO
PO BOX 501879
SAIPAN, MP 96950

SAIPAN WHOLESALE INC
DBA KI PROPERTY AND GREEN CIRCLE
PO BOX 505656
SAIPAN, MP 96950

MARIANAS PARADISE INC
PO BOX 502292
SAIPAN, MP 96950

WESPAC INCORPORATION
PO BOX 7427 SVRB
SAIPAN, MP 96950

MU SUNG CORPORATION
PO BOX 506607
SAIPAN, MP 96950

HW GOLDEN ISLAND HOLDINGS LTD
SAIPAN, MP 96950

MD ABDUL KADIR
PO BOX 504818
SAIPAN, MP 96950

MAHMUD ALI KHANDAKER
PO BOX 504818
SAIPAN, MP 96950

MD JAKIR HOSSAIN
PO BOX 504818
SAIPAN, MP 96950

ZAIDS ENTERPRISES
PMB 10 BOX 10001
SAIPAN, MP 96950

ANTONINO L MENDIOLA
PO BOX 863
ROTA, MP 96951

NATHAN D BAUER
PO BOX 520461
TINIAN, MP 96952

JUAN T LIZAMA
PO BOX 501508
SAIPAN, MP 96950

MARIANAS CONSULTANCY SERVICES LLC
CLIENT TRUST FUND
PMB 997 BOX 10000
SAIPAN, MP 96950

ORREKIM CLUB
PO BOX 504443
SAIPAN, MP 96950

XIWEN ZHAO
PO BOX 504885
SAIPAN, MP 96950

BO SEA CORPORATION
PO BOX 502592
SAIPAN, MP 96950

YUKI Y XIA
PO BOX 505519
SAIPAN, MP 96950

ELEANOR T CABRERA
T/F RUBEN ANTONIO C GUERRERO
PO BOX 500164
SAIPAN, MP 96950

SAIPAN JING HUA INVESTMENT INC
PO BOX 500466
SAIPAN, MP 96950

MILTON FREDERICK D. LIZAMA
PO BOX 502193
SAIPAN, MP 96950

CHUN HUA DAI
PMB 163 BOX 10000
SAIPAN, MP 96950

SHENG BO YU HUI, LLC
PMB 10 BOX 10003
SAIPAN, MP 96950

SUZUKI FDN
PO BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

OCEAN BREEZE ENTERTAINMENT INC
PO BOX 505208
SAIPAN, MP 96950

YA JUAN DAI
SAIPAN, MP 96950

HYODUK CORPORATION
DBA FINA SISU POKER
PO BOX 505593
SAIPAN, MP 96950

TINIAN INTL TOURISM DEV GRP LLC
PO BOX 800
TINIAN, MP 96952

TAIHONG CHEN
PO BOX 502664
SAIPAN, MP 96950

EVENGIIE VERTINSKII
PO BOX 503358
SAIPAN, MP 96950

ANDREW B DACOSTA
PO BOX 520461
TINIAN, MP 96952

TAN SIU LIN FAMILY
CHARITY FOUNDATION INC
PO BOX 501280
SAIPAN, MP 96950

TAN SIU LIN FAMILY
PO BOX 501280
SAIPAN, MP 96950

TAN FAMILY TRUST FUNDS
PO BOX 501280
SAIPAN, MP 96950

SIU LIN TAN
PEK KIM LAM
PO BOX 501280
SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOSE P SAURES
BERNARD KINTARO SANTOS
PO BOX 791
SAIPAN, MP 96950

PETER RAY B. MANGLONA
CAROLINAS HEIGHTS
TINIAN, MP 96952

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA Commonwealth Development Authority

Federal Government Contracting Series

Tuesday, August 6, 2019 @ 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

1st Floor, CDA Board Room, San Jose

Presented by:

Nancy Ann Tan, Assistant Manager, FirstNet Insurance Company

Boris Hertslet Program Manager, Guam PTAC

Kenneth Q. Lujan, Branch Manager, SBA Guam

Each year, the federal government awards hundreds of billions of dollars in federal contracts to business to meet the needs of federal agencies and the military. This training will cover the steps needed in order to do business with the federal government:

- **DUNS Number**
- **SAM Registration**
- **How to Obtain a Surety Bond**

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Register at https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events/4396

For more information, contact the CNMI SBDC at 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com.

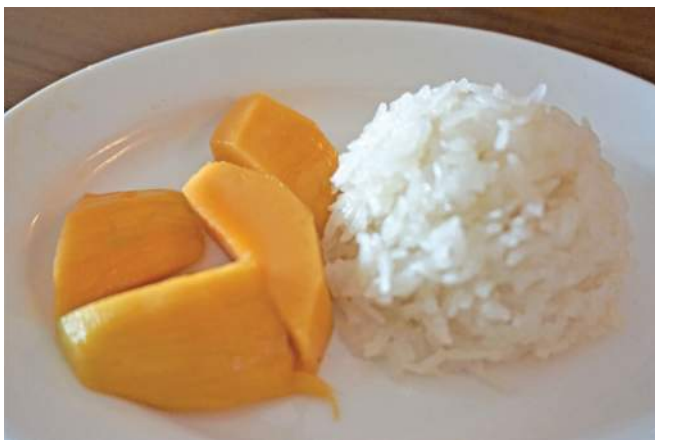
Disclaimer: The Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN) at the University of Guam – School of Business & Public Administration is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinian, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, and Tel: (670)664-3018, or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

Business

Catch new Thai flavor at Tom Yum resto

BEA CABRERA
Tom Yum Restaurant manager Natalia Guan presents their Thai lunch buffet available Monday to Friday from 11:30am to 2pm for only $12.

BEA CABRERA
Tom Yum Restaurant welcomes parties and celebrations as they have space at the restaurant to accommodate them.



BEA CABRERA
Special Thai dessert mango sticky rice and other authentic Thai desserts are available at Tom Yum Restaurant.

When one hears the word Tom Yum, one immediately thinks of delicious hot and sour Thai soup packed with herbs, spices, vegetables, and seafood or pork. This soup is not only popular in Thailand but also around the world because it is easy to prepare and the mix of ingredients creates a flavor that does not disappoint.

This is the reason why partners Phannee U. Regen and Natalia Guan came up with a Thai restaurant serving the best Tom Yum on the island and naming it after this popular soup.

Being of Thai ethnicity, Regen said cooking is her passion. "Tom Yum is a staple dish in every Thai meal. This soup is considered the national soup of Thailand and in recent years, it has gained recognition internationally making the name easy to recall and that is another reason why we named our restaurant Tom Yum."

"Aside from our special Tom Yum soup, I consider the rest of the food that we serve are special and authentic Thai may it be seafood, vegetables, pork, beef, and desserts. We have Tom Yum fried rice which is not available anywhere else," Regen added.

In an island where tourism is the economic driver, Saipan has been creating an environment that is open for entrepreneurship and according to Guan, this business venture is fueled by friendship and passion to be better people. "We are just simple housewives and we met because we pick up our children that goes to the same school. One time we had this agreement that we can be better, follow [our[passions," she said.

"I'm sure in every woman there is always a drive inside her to become better… somedays you wake up thinking what you have accomplished and what you want to accomplish… Phannee and I wanted to stand out and this is our opportunity to see how far we can go," she added.

A regular customer Roselyn Ajoste of Susupe said that she hasn't found anything in the menu of Tom Yum Restaurant that she doesn't like. "Their food is great and I think their fried spring rolls and stir-fried beans with beef are a must have. They have some things on the menu that I haven't seen in other Thai restaurants such as the green curry fried rice."

Getting another chef to take care of non-Thai food menu is part of their future plans. "We plan to expand our menu to hamburgers, pasta, and steak so we can cater to a wider range of customers. We also have happy hour starting at 5pm where we serve Budweiser beer," Guan said.

Tom Yum Restaurant is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 10pm and lunch buffet is available from 11:30am to 2pm for only $12.

"We welcome parties and celebrations in the restaurant as we have adult and children corner and we have ample space of parking for customers," Guan added.

Tom Yum Restaurant is located at the ground floor of Paradise Hotel along Middle Road. For more information, call (670) 488-2963 or look them up on Facebook and type Tom Yum Restaurant. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

EMPOWER PARENTS · ENABLE BREASTFEEDING

WABA | WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK 2019

World Breastfeeding Week 2019

#WBW2019
AUG 1-7, 2019

Happy World Breastfeeding Week

"My employer allowed me to take breaks to pump as often as I needed to. She ensured that I had a clean, private room with a lock, and a secure, clean fridge to store breast milk. She knew that pumping was important to me. And every time work got too busy, she helped me to come up with a new plan that will meet both of our needs."

Evonnie C. Pangelinan
WIC Participant

WIC CNMI

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This project was supported by Grant 7NM700NM5 CFDA 10.557 from USDA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of USDA."

BankPacific
Where others put branches, we place roots.

NOTICE OF INACTIVE DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

The following Checking Accounts have been inactive with BankPacific for at least six months. The account owner should immediately contact the BankPacific Saipan Branch, Garapan at (670) 233-4752. The funds of each inactive account will be transferred to the Commonwealth Treasurer during the month of October 2019 (pursuant to Public Law 18-69). After such transfer, all inquiries pertaining to the account should be directed to the Commonwealth Treasurer.

BALTAZAR, LUISITO.
DBA KONSTRAK BUILDERS
PMB 1111 BOX 10002
SAIPAN MP 96950

BEARDEN, BRIAN G.
408 CRESTMONT SRIVE
FAIRBANKS AK 99709

CASTRO, ANTONIO B.
P.O. BOX 5535 CHRB
SAIPAN MP 96950

DELA CERNA, NEHEMIAS S.
P.O. BOX 8065 SVRB
SAIPAN MP 96950

KINTOL, MARGARET N.
P.O. BOX 501054
SAIPAN MP 96950

LUMASAG, EDGAR A.
LUMASAG, MARIBETH O.
PO BOX 504886 CK
SAIPAN MP 96950

MARIANAS HEALTH SERVICES, INC.
P.O. BOX 10003 PMB 1341
SAIPAN MP 96950

PALACIOS, LING LIN
P.O. BOX 505729
SAIPAN MP 96950

SABLAN, TITO M.
P.O. BOX 506008
SAIPAN MP 96950

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 503121
SAIPAN MP 96950

SAKAZIRO, VERONICA
P.O. BOX 7596 SVRB
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Member FDIC

Trump: China wants to delay trade talks past 2020 election

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump has accused China of wanting to stall trade negotiations through the 2020 election in hopes of being able to negotiate with a more malleable Democratic president. Yet if re-elected, Trump threatened to get "much tougher" with Beijing.

"China would love to wait and just hope," Trump asserted to reporters Tuesday.

"They would just love if I got defeated so they could deal with somebody like Elizabeth Warren or Sleepy Joe Biden.... They'll pray that Trump loses. And then they'll make a deal with a stiff, somebody that doesn't know what they're doing like Obama and Biden, like all the presidents before."

Trump made his comments just as his trade representative, Robert Lighthizer, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and their Chinese counterparts began a 12th round of trade talks in Shanghai.

Separately on Twitter, Trump warned that "the problem with them waiting, however, is that if & when I win, the deal that they get will be much tougher than what we are negotiating now...or no deal at all."

The world's two biggest economies are locked in a trade war over U.S. allegations that Beijing uses predatory tactics—including stealing trade secrets and forcing foreign companies to hand over technology—in a drive to overtake American technological dominance.

Trump has imposed tariffs on $250 billion worth of Chinese imports, and China has counterpunched by taxing $110 billion in U.S. products.

Negotiators in Shanghai are also expected to discuss the fate of the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei. The United States in May put Huawei, which U.S. officials see as a national security threat, on a blacklist barring it from receiving U.S. components. Trump has said that Huawei could be a bargaining chip in the trade dispute.

Health chief says Trump working on prescription import plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration is working on a plan that would allow Americans to import lower-priced prescription drugs from Canada, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said Tuesday.

Azar made his comments during an interview with CNBC, saying he had just gotten off the phone with President Donald Trump discussing the plan.

The two were "working on a plan on how we can import drugs safely and effectively from Canada so the American people get the benefit of the deals that pharma (companies) themselves are striking with other countries," Azar said in the interview.

Eyeing his re-election campaign, Trump has made lowering prescription drug prices one of his top priorities. As a candidate, he called for allowing Americans to import prescription drugs, and recently he's backed a Florida law allowing state residents to gain access to medications from Canada. Trump is also supporting bipartisan legislation in the Senate that would limit prescription copays for people on Medicare and require drugmakers to pay the government rebates if the cost of their medications goes up faster than inflation.

Azar didn't elaborate on the administration's importation plan, but HHS has said both Azar and the president are very open to the importation of prescription drugs as long as it can be done safely and can deliver results for patients.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
RFQ NO.: RFQ19-MOT-115

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 14, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWIN P. ALDAN
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-012, Rev. 1

ISLAND WIDE WATER METER INSTALLATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of the installation of new service saddles, corporation stops, and PVC service lines from the CUC main to the meter, proper sizing of existing service lines, installation of a water meter on non-metered customers, relocation of existing CUC water meters from private property to public easement, various exploration work, abandonment of unnecessary service lines, removal of existing manifold systems, and as required, installation of new service lines from the meter to the house plumbing.

The Bid Package may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) on an electronic disk file; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 1, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-012, Rev.1, Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **9:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 2, 2019 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Nation

FBI calls killer at California festival 'kind of a loner'

GILROY, Calif. (AP)—The 19-year-old gunman who opened fire at a Northern California food festival was "kind of a loner" and much of his life was shrouded in mystery, the FBI said Tuesday as investigators searched for a motive.

Police believe Santino William Legan fired randomly Sunday, killing three people, after cutting through a fence to get into the Gilroy Garlic Festival. Officers patrolling the popular event responded within a minute and killed him.

Legan grew up in Gilroy and was recently living in Nevada, where he purchased two guns—the AK-47-style semi-automatic rifle he used in the attack and a shotgun that was found in his car near the festival, authorities said.

A bag of ammunition was found in a creek near the fence, police said.

"We understand him to be kind of a loner," said Craig Fair, deputy special agent in charge of the FBI's San Francisco Division. "People who act alone are exceptionally dangerous because they ... may not communicate their plans, intentions, mindset—they may not impart that on other people."

Legan was living in an apartment in Walker Lake, a remote northern Nevada community, and had not had any run-ins with the law, officials said.

"He appears to have moved into Mineral County this spring and maintained a low profile," Sheriff Randy Adams said in a statement.

Officials searched the apartment, seizing empty shotgun and rifle boxes, a gas mask, empty ammunition boxes, electronic devices, pamphlets on guns and a sack full of ammunition casings, prosecutors said.

The FBI said they were looking through Legan's social media, emails and phone to find out who he was talking to and what he was expressing and thinking. Authorities don't believe he was targeting anyone based on any specific characteristics like race, but they're still trying to determine his ideology, Fair said.

On the day of the attack, Legan urged his Instagram followers to read a 19th century book popular with white supremacists on extremist websites. He also complained about overcrowding towns and paving open space to make room for "hordes" of Latinos and Silicon Valley whites.

Legan posted a photo from the festival minutes before opening fire, saying, "Come get wasted on overpriced" items. His since-deleted Instagram account says he is Italian and Iranian.

While some killers in recent mass shootings have taken to posting writing or even broadcasting their attacks, there are cases where shooters leave very little public footprint and no motive is uncovered.

That includes the gunman who carried out the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. No clear motive was found for why Stephen Paddock killed 58 people at an outdoor music festival in Las Vegas in 2017, though the FBI said he sought notoriety.

Gilroy Police Chief Scot Smithee told reporters that authorities believe Legan acted alone but are still investigating. Investigators tracked Legan's movements around town before the shooting, and video shows him visiting stores alone, Smithee said.

People had to pass through metal detectors and have their bags searched at the long-running festival that draws more than 100,000 people with music, food booths and cooking classes to the city roughly 80 miles (176 kilometers) southeast of San Francisco.

2 dead, 2 wounded in shooting at Walmart in Mississippi

SOUTHAVEN, Miss. (AP)—A gunman described as a disgruntled Walmart employee fatally shot two coworkers and wounded a police officer before he was shot and arrested Tuesday morning at a Walmart store in northern Mississippi, authorities said.

DeSoto County District Attorney John Champion said 39-year-old Martez Tarrell Abram shot a Southaven police officer, who was protected by a bulletproof vest and suffered minor injuries. Southaven Police Chief Macon Moore said a second Southaven officer shot Abram, who underwent surgery at a hospital in neighboring Memphis, Tennessee.

Both the people killed were Walmart employees, Moore said. Employees told The Associated Press that the first was shot in the parking lot, and the second was shot inside the store.

Southaven Mayor Darren Musselwhite described the suspect as a disgruntled worker with a grievance against his employer. Abram, a Southaven resident, had been suspended from the store in recent days after he showed a knife to a co-worker. A police report had been filed, but Champion said Abram didn't appear to have threatened the co-worker and criminal charges weren't being pursued.

"It wasn't an accident," said Travis Jones, an overnight stocker who was working when he heard shots. "He knew what he was doing when he came in there."

Jones said he saw the body of store manager Anthony Brown on the floor as they ran out of the store. "It was an ugly scene," he said. DeSoto County Coroner Joshua Pounders said the 40-year-old Brown, an Olive Branch resident, appears to have died from a gunshot wound.

Nicholas Gales said the other slain worker was his brother, 38-year-old Brandon Gales of Hernando. Jones called Brandon Gales his best friend and an "all-around good guy," saying he was the father of multiple children.

The shooting at about 6:30 a.m. brought a massive police response to the shopping complex, at a busy exit off Interstate 55 in Southaven, a suburb of 55,000 people.

"Our police really showed their guts today," Musselwhite said, noting Southaven officers recently undertook active shooter training, "If it hadn't been for their efforts there would have been more lives lost."

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2019

Opening date: July 22, 2019 **Closing date: August 06, 2019**

Positions:
(1) Receptionist/Secretary (Saipan)
(1) Ports Police Officer-I (Saipan)
(1) Electrician (Saipan)
(1) ARFF General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
(1) ARFF/Ports Police Officer-I (Rota)
(1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I (Rota)
(1) General Maintenance-I (Tinian)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 06, 2019**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at jadene.villagomez@cpa.gov.mp or hrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on ***Monday, August 5, 2019, 3:00PM*** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of April 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
A. CRM Permit Application No. TMS-2019-X-020 Project: XINGSHA HOTEL PROJECT The Tinian Hairui Real Estate Co., LLC is proposing to construct the Xingsha Hotel along 8th Avenue and Kammer Beach, Lot No. 040 T 06, in San Jose, Tinian. The proposed project consists of three 3-story building complex with a total of 138 unit guest rooms, 112 parking spaces, storage area, control room, lobby and reception area, snack bar, and kitchen and dining areas with seating of about 24 persons. The proposal includes landscaping of plants and trees.
1) Agencies' Review and Discussion of Application Package

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Asia

Seoul: N. Korea launches 2 short-range ballistic missiles

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast Wednesday, South Korea's military said, its second weapons test in less than a week. North Korea is angry over planned U.S.-South Korean military drills and may be trying to boost pressure on the United States to win concessions as the rivals struggle to set up talks over the North's nuclear weapons.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said Wednesday's missiles were launched from Wonsan, a city the North pushes as a vacation destination but that it also uses as a regular launch site. The joint chiefs' statement said both missiles were believed to have flown about 250 kilometers (155 miles) at a maximum altitude of 30 kilometers (19 miles) and that the South Korean and U.S. militaries were trying to gather more details.

"The North's repeated missile launches are not helpful to efforts to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula, and we urge (North Korea) to stop this kind of behavior," the statement said. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe briefly told reporters the launches were "no threat to Japanese national security."

Six days earlier, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles that Seoul officials said flew 600 kilometers (370 miles) before landing in the sea.

AP
People watch a TV showing a file image of North Korea's missile launch during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, July 31, 2019.

U.N. Security Council resolutions ban North Korea from using ballistic technology in any weapons launches. But it's unlikely that the nation, already under 11 rounds of U.N. sanctions, will be hit with fresh punitive measures. Past sanctions were imposed only when the North conducted long-range ballistic launches.

Japan's Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya told reporters Wednesday that the most recently launched weapons did not reach Japan's exclusive economic zone and that officials are still analyzing details, including the flight distance and trajectory. Referring to the previous launches, Iwaya said, "It is extremely regrettable that North Korea continues firing the missiles that violate the U.N. resolutions."

North Korea's state media said last week's tests were supervised by leader Kim Jong Un and were designed to deliver a "solemn warning" to South Korea over its purchase of high-tech U.S.-made fighter jets and planned military drills that Pyongyang calls an invasion rehearsal.

Wednesday's launches came hours after a senior U.S. official said President Donald Trump sent Kim mementos from his brief visit to an inter-Korean border town late last month.

The official said a top staffer from the National Security Council hand-delivered photographs from the June Trump-Kim meeting at the Korean Demilitarized Zone to a North Korean official last week. The Trump administration official spoke on the condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

The DMZ meeting was the third summit between Trump and Kim. At their second meeting, in Vietnam, Trump rejected Kim's demand for widespread sanctions relief in return for dismantling the North's main nuclear complex, a partial disarmament step.

During the DMZ meeting, Trump and Kim agreed to resume nuclear diplomacy in coming weeks, but there hasn't been any known meeting between the countries. Some experts say North Korea wants a U.S. promise to ease sanctions, accept a slow, step-by-step disarmament process by the North or for the U.S. to make other concessions once the diplomacy restarts.

Despite a recent lack of progress in nuclear diplomacy, both Trump and Kim have said they have maintained good relations with each other. After Thursday's missile launches, Trump tried to downplay the significance of the tests, saying that "short-range" was the most important detail. He said North Korea fired "standard" missiles that many countries possess.

South Korea's military said the flight data of the weapon launched last week showed similarities to the Russian-made Iskander, a short-range, nuclear-capable missile. A North Korean version could likely reach all of South Korea—and the 28,500 U.S. forces stationed there—and would be extremely hard to intercept.

PH defense chief hits China for South China Sea acts

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine defense chief criticized China on Tuesday for what he called "bullying" actions in the South China Sea and said Beijing's peaceful assurances contrast with its behavior in the contested waters.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana criticized China's increasingly assertive actions when asked to comment on the Chinese ambassador's assurances in Manila that Beijing won't seek hegemony in the disputed region and "will not take the first shot."

"They say we do not bully people around, they follow international law, but I said you are not, what you are telling is not what you are doing on the ground," Lorenzana said in one of his most stinging public rebukes yet of Chinese actions in territories claimed by Beijing, Manila and four other governments.

Unless China does what it says, its words will be doubted and Filipinos will continue to look at Beijing with mistrust, said Lorenzana, a retired army general. He cited China's low trust ratings in local opinion polls compared to those of the United States, a treaty ally of the Philippines.

In a speech in Manila late Monday to mark the anniversary of the People's Liberation Army, Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua said his country's peaceful intent is enshrined in the Chinese constitution and that it's strengthening its military "entirely for the purpose of self-defense."

"No matter how strong China may become, China will never seek hegemony or never establish spheres of influence," Zhao said. "China will remain committed to serving as a force for peace, for stability and for prosperity in the world."

Zhao added that "China adopts a military strategy of active defense which adheres to the principle of defense, self-defense and post-strike response. Meaning we will not take the first shot."

China's PLA is ready to deepen trust with the Philippine military, he said.

On the long-raging territorial disputes, Zhao said both sides should be patient and added that China would continue to adopt a policy of peaceful settlement rather than confrontation. Pending a peaceful resolution, Zhao said both sides should ensure the disputes won't undermine overall relations.

"We cannot let the 1% differences hijack the whole 99% of friendship and cooperation as hostage," Zhao said.

As the world's second-biggest economy, China upholds freedom of navigation and overflight because nearly 75 percent of its imported and exported goods and nearly 80 percent of its imported oil and gas transit through the South China Sea, Zhao said. Blocking the sea lanes would badly hit China's economy, he added.

More than 20 charged with rioting appear in HK court

HONG KONG (AP)—Charges were read Wednesday against more than 20 Hong Kong protesters who have been accused of rioting — the most serious charge brought since mass demonstrations began in the city last month.

Standing in a heavy rain, supporters rallied outside the court and chanted "Reclaim Hong Kong, revolution of our times," in what has become a familiar refrain. They are protesting China's influence in the city, a semi-autonomous Chinese territory with its own laws and legal system.

Police said late Tuesday that 44 people had been charged with rioting and one other with possessing offensive weapons. The accused set up roadblocks, broke fences, damaged street signs and attacked police officers with bricks and iron rods, law enforcement said in a statement. Only 23 appeared in court Wednesday, and it wasn't immediately clear if the others would appear later.

They were detained after clashes with police at an unauthorized protest in the western part of Hong Kong island on Sunday, when police repeatedly fired tear gas and rubber bullets to drive back protesters blocking the streets with road signs and umbrellas. Police issued warnings prior to using the tear gas, but protesters stood their ground and threw eggs at the officers.

The large demonstrations started last month as a movement against now-suspended extradition legislation, and have since grown to encompass broader demands around greater democracy and government accountability.

The protests have been propelled by an underlying distrust for the ruling Communist Party on the mainland, where speech is tightly controlled and dissenters are routinely jailed.

News of the charges prompted quickly organized protests outside two police stations late Tuesday.

Several hundred people gathered in the streets outside the Kwai Chung police station. Some threw eggs at the building. Police used pepper spray to try to disperse them.

Fireworks were set off just before 3 a.m. at another police station, injuring six men. Video footage on social media appeared to show a car driving by the Tin Shui Wai police station as fireworks flared where protesters were gathered.

Five people were taken to a hospital and the sixth man declined medical treatment at the scene, police said. It wasn't clear who was responsible.

Hong Kong lawmaker Kwok Ka-ki told reporters that the prosecution of protesters and use of police force will only make the situation worse. He blamed Beijing-appointed Chief Executive Carrie Lam.

World

Italy: Slain police officer didn't have gun when stabbed

ROME (AP)—A plainclothes police officer had forgotten his gun the night he was fatally stabbed during a confrontation with two American teenagers in Rome, an Italian police commander said Tuesday.

Gen. Francesco Gargaro of Italy's paramilitary Carabinieri police force said that even if the officer had been armed, he would not have had time to draw his weapon before he was mortally wounded with a military-style knife.

During a news conference, the commander provided some of the first details about the encounter early Friday in which Deputy Brigadier Mario Cerciello Rega, 35, was knifed 11 times.

Cerciello Riga and a partner, Andrea Varriale, were assigned to respond to an extortion attempt involving a failed drug deal, Gargaro said. Thieves had demanded money and cocaine in exchange for returning a stolen backpack, he said.

The officers were in plainclothes and identified themselves as Carabinieri as they approached two suspects, but were immediately attacked, Gargaro said.

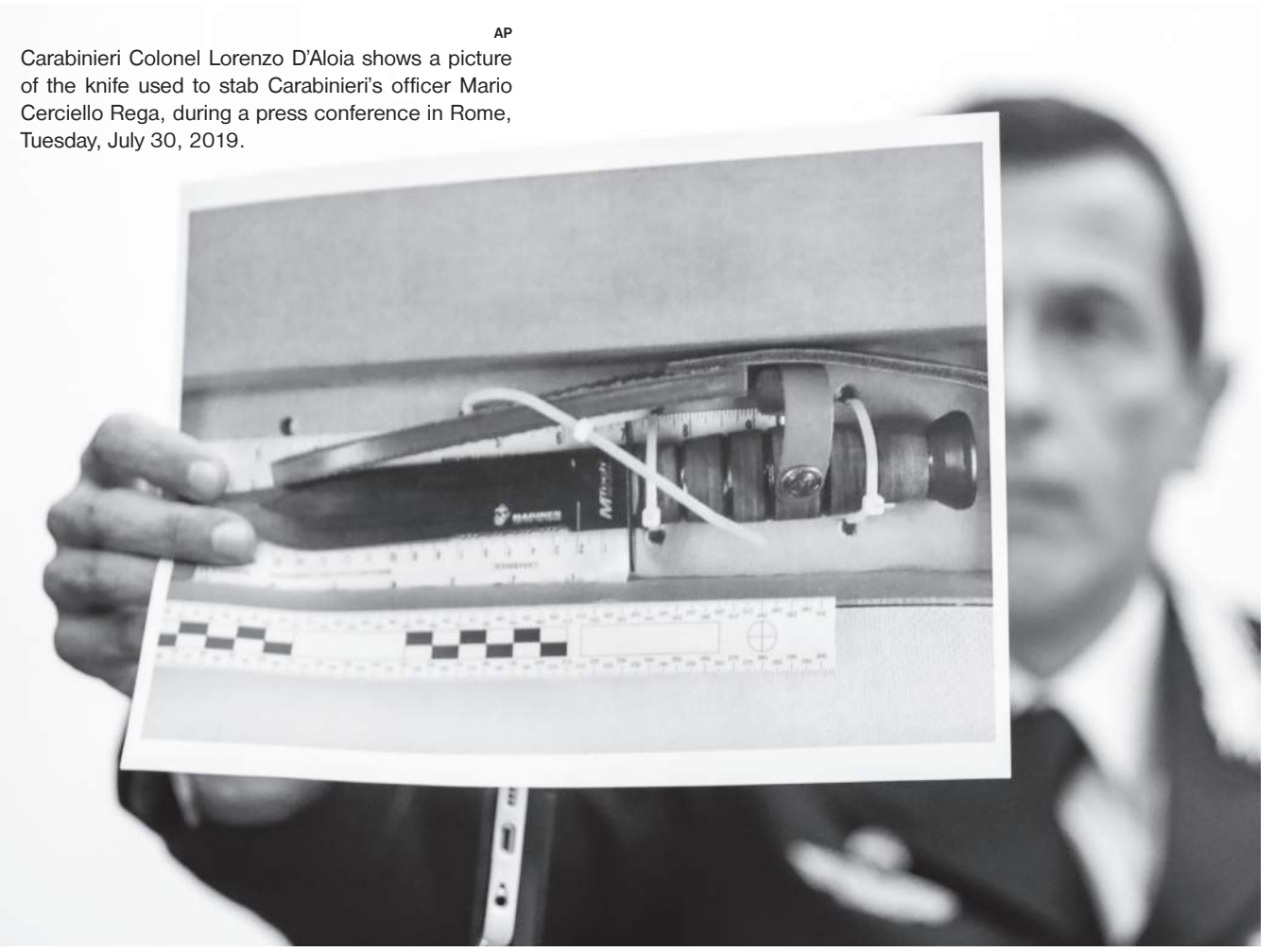
Asked why Cerciello Rega didn't pull his gun, Gargaro said the officer had "forgotten" his weapon after being asked to work on a scheduled day off.

"In any case, there was no time to use it," Gargaro said.

Other officers were unaware Cerciello Rega didn't have his gun with him when he set out on what would be a fatal assignment, police said.

AP

Carabinieri Colonel Lorenzo D'Aloia shows a picture of the knife used to stab Carabinieri's officer Mario Cerciello Rega, during a press conference in Rome, Tuesday, July 30, 2019.



"He is the only one who knows why he didn't have it with him," Gargaro said.

The two suspects from California, Finnegan Lee Elder, 19, and Gabriel Christian Natale-Hjorth, 18, were detained in the officer's slaying hours later.

Police have said Elder is suspected of being the one who stabbed Cerciello Rega while Natale-Hjorth is suspected of assaulting the other officer.

Varriale did have his gun, but after Natale-Hjorth stopped punching and scratching and ran off, the officer turned his attention to his wounded partner, Gargaro said.

The general also stressed that under Italian law it is illegal to fire at a fleeing suspect. If he had done so, Varriale "would have been under investigation for a grave crime."

A judge who approved the jailing of the two suspects Saturday said there were "grave" indications the Americans were responsible for the Carabinieri officer's death.

According to the judge's written ruling, Elder and Natale-Hjorth allegedly paid a dealer for cocaine but didn't get the drug before the approach of police officers interrupted the deal.

Investigators said the two then snatched and ran off with the knapsack of the Italian man who put them in contact with the dealer.

Police said when the intermediary, Sergio Brugiatelli, called the cellphone in the stolen backpack, the teens told him they would return the bag in exchange for 100 euros ($112) and a gram of cocaine.

Brugiatelli reported the demand to police and set up a meeting with the teens. It was Cerciello Rega and Varriale who went to the rendezvous point.

Varriale recounted later that they identified themselves as Carabinieri and showed their badges but were attacked right away, Judge Chiara Gallo wrote in her ruling upholding the detention. The teen suspects told investigators they did not know the two men who showed up to meet them were police officers, the judge said.

During his interrogation, Elder told authorities he stabbed Cerciello Rega because he feared he was being strangled, the judge said while noting in her ruling the teen didn't have any marks on his neck.

The two Californians graduated from the same high school north of San Francisco in 2018. Both had just finished a first year at different community colleges in Southern California.

Elder's family in San Francisco has said he was on his first solo trip to Europe and went to meet his friend in Rome because Natale-Hjorth had relatives there.

The Italian Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that Natale-Hjorth, whose father is Italian, has Italian citizenship as well as American.

Elder's uncle told The Associated Press early Tuesday that his nephew took part in organized "fight nights" at a popular San Francisco park where high school boys brawled.

The uncle, Sean Elder, said the events were well-known and "apparently resulted in many injuries."

Congo officials say 2nd Ebola case confirmed in city of Goma

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—Officials in Congo on Tuesday said a second Ebola case had been confirmed in Goma, the city of more than 2 million people whose first confirmed case in this yearlong outbreak was reported earlier this month.

There appeared to be no link between the man's case and the previous one in Goma, Jean-Jacques Muyembe, a local Ebola response coordinator, told reporters. He arrived on July 13 from a mining area in northeastern Congo's Ituri province and started showing symptoms on July 22. He is now isolated at an Ebola treatment center. Ebola symptoms can start to occur between two and 21 days from infection, health experts say.

Goma is on Congo's heavily traveled border with Rwanda and has an international airport. For months health officials had feared that an Ebola case would be confirmed there. Days after the first Goma case was announced, the World Health Organization declared the Ebola outbreak a rare global emergency.

This has become the second-deadliest Ebola outbreak in history, with more than 1,700 people killed despite the widespread use of an experimental but effective Ebola vaccine. Containing the outbreak faces unprecedented challenges amid attacks by rebel groups and resistance by wary community residents in a region of Congo that had never experienced an Ebola outbreak before.

Muyembe and other officials on Tuesday sought to reassure both Goma residents and neighboring countries that measures were being taken to strengthen surveillance for Ebola at border posts and elsewhere. Neighboring Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan began vaccinating health workers weeks or months ago. WHO says the risk of regional spread remains "very high."

The declaration of a global health emergency—the fifth in history—brought a surge of millions of dollars in new pledges by international donors but some health workers say a new approach is needed to combat misunderstandings in the community. Far too many people in this outbreak are still dying at home, they say.

There is no licensed treatment for Ebola and survival can depend on seeking treatment as quickly as possible. And yet many people in the region don't believe that Ebola is real, health workers have said.

The first confirmed Ebola case in Goma was a 46-year-old preacher who managed to pass through three health checkpoints on the way from Butembo. The city is one of the communities hardest hit by this outbreak, which is second only to the 2014-16 Ebola epidemic in West Africa that left more than 11,300 people dead.

WORLD BRIEFS

Dubai ruler, princess in London court over welfare of kids

LONDON (AP)—The estranged wife of Dubai's ruler applied for protective orders in a British court Tuesday using laws intended to safeguard victims of forced marriages and domestic abuse, while the sheikh's lawyers requested that their two children be quickly returned to Dubai. Princess Haya, 45, asked for a forced marriage protection order and a non-molestation order during a British High Court hearing that centered on the welfare of her two children with Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The forced marriage protection order applied to the children. She asked for wardship of the children during the preliminary hearing. The names and ages of the children are not allowed to be published under British law. Princess Haya, who is Sheikh Mohammed's sixth wife and the daughter of the late King Hussein of Jordan, reportedly fled Dubai earlier this year. Family court Judge Andrew McFarlane rejected a request from Sheikh Mohammed's lawyers to have details about the protective orders subject to reporting restrictions. "There is a public interest in the public understanding, in very broad terms, proceedings that are before the court," he said.

Tee off at the cathedral: House of worship adds mini-golf

LONDON (AP)—Putts are joining prayers at Britain's Rochester Cathedral, where a mini-golf course has been installed inside the medieval house of worship. The course runs along the central nave and features nine holes designed like bridges. It's intended to teach young people about engineering and also has spiritual overtones. Rev. Rachel Phillips, the cathedral's Canon for Mission and Growth, said it's hoped "visitors will reflect on the bridges that need to be built in their own lives and in our world today." The course is open throughout August, though not when services are held. Not everyone is thrilled with the addition to the cathedral 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of London, parts of which are almost 1,000 years old. In Tuesday's Daily Telegraph, religious commentator Tim Stanley called the golf course "an act of desecration" that was "making Christianity look ridiculous." Anglican priest Giles Fraser tweeted that "what people want from the church is the sort of moral and spiritual seriousness they can't get elsewhere. Not this." But the cathedral's Canon Matthew Rushton said the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, head of the Church of England, had told clergy that "if you don't know how to have fun in cathedrals then you're not doing your job properly."

Environment

Bees are dying. Would a consumer ban on a pesticide help?

By JACQUELYN MELINEK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
In this June 4, 2019 photo, Leigh-Kathryn Bonner, founder of Bee Downtown, takes a frame from their newest installation of hives at Parmer RTP, one of many corporate campuses who welcome Bonner and her bees to enrich their work environments in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—If you find yourself sipping a cold brew with a piece of watermelon in your hand this summer, you can thank the bees for making that snack possible.

Bees pollinate almost three-quarters of the 100 crop species that provide 90 percent of the world's food supply, say advocates working on a campaign to protect bees from insecticides.

Last week, the grassroots group Environment North Carolina delivered a petition with 13,452 signatures to Gov. Roy Cooper's office, calling for a consumer ban on the sale and use of neonicotinoids (neonics) pesticides. Advocates gathered in downtown Raleigh, not far from regional headquarters for Syngenta and other businesses like Bayer and Dow Chemical that manufacture neonics and say their products are safe when applied according to label directions.

Every winter for the past 12 years, about 30 percent of commercial honeybee hives in the United States have collapsed because of diseases, parasites, poor nutrition, pesticides and other issues, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Services has said.

While pesticides aren't the only cause, they contribute to the problem, according to the department, which recommends gardeners use pesticides sparingly or not at all.

Drew Ball, state director of Environment North Carolina, believes banning sales to consumers in the state would be a step in the right direction toward bigger bans.

Maryland and Connecticut have banned the sale of neonics to consumers, said state Rep. Pricey Harrison. The European Union has banned neonics and Canada is phasing them out.

Harrison is one of the sponsors of House Bill 559, also known as the Pollinator Protection Act. The bill, whose primary sponsors also include Reps. Chuck McGrady, John Ager and Mitchell Setzer, stalled in committee this spring.

Concerns about agricultural pesticides are not new, said Hannah Burrack, professor of entomology at N.C. State University. People disagree because there are positive and negative effects, so it's a trade-off, she said.

"The thing that gets glossed over in the discussions of banning neonics is that the pests themselves aren't going to go away in these farming systems," said Burrack, who is also an extension specialist. "Something needs to be done to manage them, and that something might become a more toxic pesticide if this one is removed. That needs to be a part of the conversation."

A Google search can yield numerous alternatives to insecticides, like using fabric covers to keep pests off crops. The Natural Resource Conservation Service suggests people who do use insecticides should choose products with less harmful ingredients and spray them on dry evenings after dark when bees are not active.

Neonicotinoids are classified as a "general pesticide" by the EPA, which means no training or licensing is required to use them.

Consumers, who may not know as much as farmers about the chemicals they are using, often over-apply neonics, at a time when non-farming regions have become increasingly important habitats for bees, said Libba Rollins, Environment North Carolina's campaign lead.

"Private citizens aren't typically aware of the impact this has on pollinator population," Ball explained. "A lot of people are buying these over the counter without recognizing the effect."

Environment North Carolina is seeking a consumer ban because "bees are dying at record rates," Ball said. "Beekeepers report losing an average of 30 percent of all honeybee colonies each winter, roughly twice the loss considered sustainable. A recent study found that more than half of all (wild) bees are in decline, too."

It is not clear if neonics are causing the decline in wild bees, Burrack said. "There is limited science available and it's harder to research wild bees because they can't be raised in captivity," she said.

However, fewer wild bees could affect crop production. North Carolina is fourth in pumpkin production, seventh in cantaloupe, apple and tomato production, eighth in squash and watermelon production and ninth in cabbage production, and all of these crops require pollinators, including wild bees, Rollins said.

Bayer, Dow, Monsanto and Syngenta are some of the biggest producers of neonics and say they should not be blocked or banned.

"Neonicotinoids are rigorously tested before going to market to ensure they can be used safely and effectively while allowing bees and other pollinators to thrive," Syngenta said a statement to The News & Observer. "The weight of scientific evidence clearly shows that bees and other pollinators can coexist safely with neonicotinoid insecticides when product labels are followed."

Bayer agreed, adding that the potential exposure to bees by consumer application is far below levels that would cause concern.

"Distinguishing toxicity from risk is a routine activity performed by most of us, even if we're unaware we're doing so," Bayer said in its statement. "For example, caffeine is more toxic than many pesticides, yet we drink it in coffee without fear because the levels are so low."

In 2014, Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement company, announced that it had stoped treating 80 percent of flowering plants with neonics and would completely stop using neonics in flowering plants by 2018.

Lowe's Home Improvement announced in 2015 that it would phase out neonics after the EPA announced it would stop approving new uses of the pesticide.

While groups disagree about bans, insecticides like neonics are part of a larger discussion about how our food is grown, Burrack said.

"I believe the best solution is to use the whole suite of pest-management tools we have available to us," she said. "We monitor insect populations and select the least disruptive treatment available to us which in some cases is chemical control or not chemical-based controls."

EPA inspects hazardous waste generators on Saipan

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 Enforcement Division inspector Jennifer MacArthur, in partnership with Division of Environmental Qquality-Toxic Waste Management Branch, conducted RCRA Hazardous Waste Compliance Assistance Inspection at nine facilities on Saipan that are hazardous waste generators.

Generators of hazardous waste are subject to different requirements based on the amount of waste generated. The purpose of the hazardous waste compliance inspections was to inspect the facilities storage area of the hazardous waste, review hazardous waste manifest, and go over site contingency plan. At the end of each compliance inspection, a debriefing of summary of findings and necessary corrective actions to be taken for each site were addressed. During this compliance inspection, no facilities were found to have any serious violation. However, the EPA inspector and DEQ noted that some facilities needed to improve on their housekeeping practice on proper management of their hazardous chemical storage area. EPA's enforcement division conducts inspection of RCRA facility yearly in the CNMI and other insular area in the Pacific. Generators of hazardous waste are encouraged to comply with the storage and disposal requirement of hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

RCRA was passed in 1976 as an amendment to the Solid Waste Disposal Act. The program set three goals: To protect human health and the environment, reduce waste, conserve energy and natural resources and Reduce or eliminate the generation of hazardous waste as expeditiously as possible.

On the same week, EPA Region 9 Enforcement Division Everett Pringle conducted a training for the BECQ-DEQ Safe Drinking Water Program. The training presented on July 22 consisted of Disinfection of Water Storage Facilities and Disinfection of Water Mains. Along with the SDWP staff, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Water Division staff and Bureau of Environmental Health staff were also present. The purpose of the training was to enhance participant's knowledge on the disinfection of water storage tanks and what kinds of disinfections methods can be used when installing/repairing pipelines.

On July 23, EPA continued the training covering topics on Enforcement Overview and Enforcement Response Policy. Along with BECQ, CUC, and BEH management, the Attorney General's Office was also present. The training was intended to familiarize the participants with the enforcement process which EPA implements. Participants also got an in-depth explanation on the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) regulations and policies, as well as the penalties that come along with violations.

The CNMI BECQ appreciates the continued support and assistance from USEPA in providing technical assistance and funding for its programs. ***(PR)***

Life & Style

Jury told Katy Perry hit 'Dark Horse' earned $41M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The penalty phase of a copyright infringement trial over Katy Perry's hit "Dark Horse" opened Tuesday with attorneys for the creators of a Christian rap song telling jurors that the pop superstar's 2013 song earned $41 million overall.

The figure will be a key point of contention in determining how much Perry and her collaborators owe the makers of the 2009 song "Joyful Noise." Most of the dispute will center on the $31 million Capitol Records received from the song. The label contends that after factoring in costs, its profit was a mere $630,000.

Perry's lawyers say her "Dark Horse" earnings amounted to $3.2 million, minus $800,000 in costs.

"I don't want to give away any spoilers here, but some of the costs, get ready to roll your eyes," said attorney Michael Kahn, who represents "Joyful Noise" artist Marcus Gray.

Perry

Capitol Records defense attorney Aaron Wais said during opening statements that the old adage about spending money to make money is true with songs such as "Dark Horse."

"What makes a Katy Perry song profitable? Katy Perry," Wais said.

Testimony about Capitol Records' costs in creating and promoting "Dark Horse" will begin Wednesday.

On Monday, a jury returned a unanimous verdict that found the pop hit copied elements of "Joyful Noise," a song Gray released under the stage name Flame.

"Dark Horse," a hybrid of pop, trap and hip-hop sounds that was the third single of Perry's 2013 album "Prism," spent four weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100 in early 2014. It earned Perry a Grammy Award nomination and was part of her 2015 Super Bowl halftime performance.

While copyright infringement claims are common in music, they rarely result in such losses for high-profile artists.

A jury in 2015 returned a multimillion verdict against Robin Thicke and Pharrell over their 2013 hit "Blurred Lines." The judgment, which remains on appeal, was in favor of the children of Marvin Gaye, who sued alleging that "Blurred Lines" copied from their father's hit "Got to Give It Up."

A 2016 trial over the Zed Zeppelin hit "Stairway to Heaven" ended with a jury concluding that its signature riff did not significantly resemble the song "Taurus," written by the late Randy Wolfe and performed by his band Spirit. That case is also on appeal.

Jurors in the "Dark Horse" case found all six songwriters and all four corporations that released and distributed the songs were liable, including Perry and Sarah Hudson, who wrote only the song's words, and Juicy J, who only wrote the rap he provided for the song. Perry was not present when the verdict was read.

Other defendants found liable were Capitol Records as well as Perry's producers: Dr. Luke, Max Martin and Cirkut, who came up with the song's beat.

Disney star Cameron Boyce died of epilepsy, coroner says

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles County coroner's office says Disney actor Cameron Boyce died unexpectedly from epilepsy.

An autopsy report released Tuesday states the "Descendants" star was found unresponsive at home on July 6, and later pronounced dead at the scene.

Boyce's family said previously that the 20-year-old died due to an ongoing medical condition for which he was being treated, but did not reveal specifics.

Boyce

The family statement called Boyce one of the world's brightest lights, and described his family as heartbroken over his sudden death.

Disney Channel canceled the red-carpet premiere of "Descendants 3" after Boyce's death, and said Friday's telecast will be dedicated to Boyce's memory.

US presidential envoy sent to Sweden for A$AP Rocky's trial

HELSINKI (AP)—American rapper A$AP Rocky pleaded not guilty to assault as his trial in Sweden opened Tuesday, a month after a street fight that landed him in jail and became a topic of U.S.-Swedish diplomacy.

Rocky, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, is accused with two others of beating a 19-year-old man in Stockholm on June 30. Prosecutors played video footage in court that showed Mayers throwing a young man to the ground.

Wearing sweatpants and a green T-shirt in court, Mayers, 30, pleaded not guilty to an assault charge that carries a maximum penalty of two years in prison. He says he acted in self-defense.

The Grammy-nominated artist's extended detention prompted U.S. President Donald Trump to personally intervene on his behalf earlier this month. Mayers nevertheless remained behind bars, angering Trump.

Swedish news agency TT said Trump sent the U.S. special presidential envoy for hostage affairs to Stockholm to monitor the court proceedings and to show support for Mayers.

The special envoy, Ambassador Robert O'Brien, was seen at Stockholm District Court in the morning. A biographical statement on the State Department's website says O'Brien "leads the U.S. government's diplomatic efforts on overseas hostage-related matters."

"He works closely with the families of American hostages and advises the senior leadership of the U.S. Government on hostage issues," the website states.

A senior U.S. official in Washington described O'Brien's presence as part of an effort to convey Trump's concern about the case, support American citizens "and, to, hopefully, bring them home." The official spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because they were not authorized to discuss it by name.

Fellow rapper RZA (RIHZ'-uh) of the Wu-Tang Clan told The Associated Press on Friday he was concerned about A$AP Rocky and "disappointed that a judge cannot discern that this is not a man you hold hostage."

A$AP Rocky's mother, Renee Black, also attended the proceedings. She said beforehand she was convinced her son is not guilty,

"This is a nightmare," Black was quoted by Swedish media as saying.

Prince Harry says he and Meghan will have 2 kids 'maximum'

LONDON (AP) — Prince Harry says he and his wife Meghan will have no more than two children because of concerns for the environment.

In an interview with primatologist Jane Goodall for British Vogue, Harry said becoming a father in May had changed his perspective.

He said "I view it differently now, without question. But I've always wanted to try and ensure that, even before having a child and hoping to have children."

When Goodall added "Not too many," Harry said: "two, maximum."

Harry interviewed Goodall for the September issue of British Vogue, which was guest-edited by Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex.

AP

In this Wednesday May 8, 2019 file photo, Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, during a photocall with their newborn son, in St George's Hall at Windsor Castle, England.

He said destruction of the environment was "terrifying," adding: "We are already living in it. We are the frog in the water and it's already been brought to the boil."

Dad's long disappearance give family cause for alarm

DEAR ABBY: My father's behavior has been very peculiar lately. He and Mom have been married for 45 years. Of course, all marriages go through ups and downs. They have had their share of health problems. Both are doing OK but are dealing with some medical issues.

Because of my father's actions, I'm afraid for my mother's emotional state. He stays gone for long periods of time throughout the day and sometimes stays out until the early morning of the next day. She always stays up until he gets home. When she calls or texts him, at times he doesn't respond. I've also called or texted him while he was out. When I tried talking to him, he said he doesn't have to explain himself. He's not the best at staying on track when it comes to taking care of himself. It's like he is living another life.

I'm not sure what's going on between my parents. I just know I don't like to see Mom treated this way because it's disrespectful, and I can see she's hurting. My relationship with my father is suffering because of this. I asked him to come to family counseling with me, my siblings and mother. He refuses. I'm praying about this. I just don't know what else we can do. Please help.

PERPLEXED DAUGHTER

DEAR DAUGHTER: You cannot force your father into family counseling, but you and your siblings can continue to give your mother emotional support during this difficult time, and that's what I urge you to do. I don't know what your father is up to and neither do you. But if it becomes necessary, a private detective can fill you in, I'm sure.

DEAR ABBY: I am in a loving and rewarding marriage. Because we have no children, my husband and I are best friends who devote most of our time to each other. My issue is with some of his habits.

He is kind of clumsy, and this has resulted in the destruction of many things in our home—our carpet (spills that can't be cleaned), coffee table (discolored from spilling a caustic material) and sofa (spilled wax and cigar burns). I know he doesn't do this intentionally, but nonetheless, it makes me irate. And it is constant. He apologizes for it, yet it occurs repeatedly.

Is there anything I can do to change this, or must I accept the incremental destruction of my home? And if that's the case, what can I tell myself to make me less angry about it?

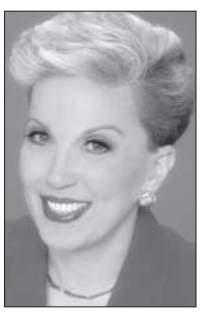
MRS. DESTRUCTO IN BALTIMORE

DEAR MRS. DESTRUCTO: A certain amount of wear and tear is normal. But your husband may be one of those people—many people are—who "lives" on the sofa. Much of your problem might be eliminated if you made sure that snacks are consumed in the kitchen and no beverages more colorful than water are enjoyed in front of the television. If that's not feasible, consider durable, stain-resistant fabrics when you re-cover your sofa.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

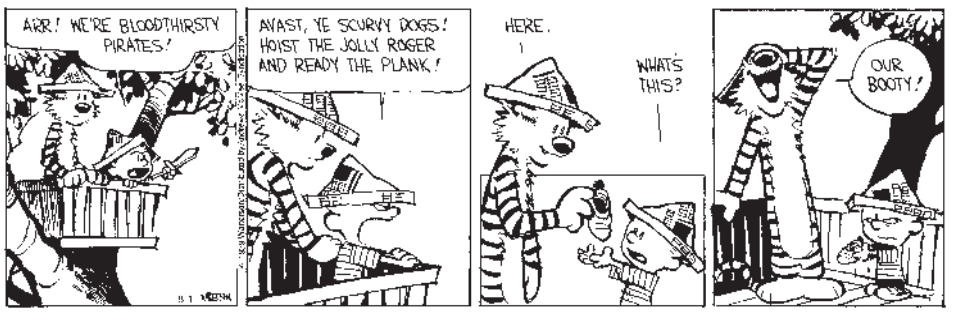


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OH MY GOSH! IT'S SWEATMAS EVE ALREADY!
WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?
SO, DO WE LEAVE OUT MILK AND COOKIES LIKE AT CHRISTMAS?
SWEATMAS
WELL, IT'S NOT FOR SANTA. IT'S FOR DRIPPY THE SWEATMAS POPSICLE, SO...
RIBS OFF THE GRILL AND A GLASS OF LEMONADE!
YOU... ARE THE BEST HOLIDAY COMER-UPPER EVER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CAN WE GET THIS DOG FOOD? IT SAYS IT'S HEALTHY.
NO. IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE.
IF WE SPEND TOO MUCH MONEY NOW, I WON'T BE ABLE TO AFFORD A REALLY COOL FUNERAL WHEN YOU GO.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

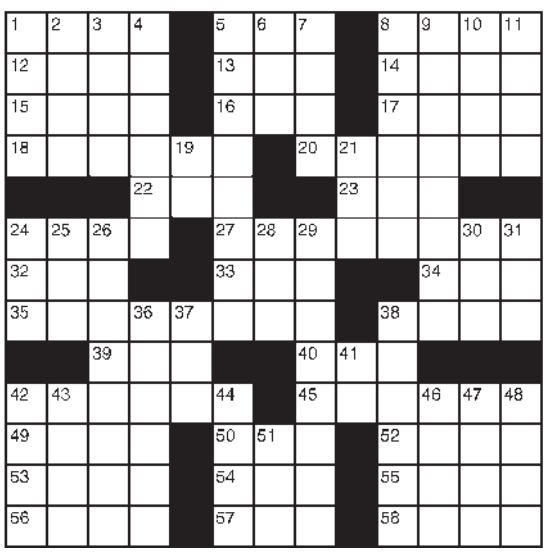
1 Teri of "Tootsie"
5 Attempt
8 Locus
12 On the briny
13 Caviar
14 "Mad Money" network
15 Roster
16 — tear (raging)
17 Rat- —
18 Portable PC
20 Joker portrayer Cesar
22 Sashimi fish
23 Earth Day mo.
24 Twain hero
27 Instrument in a Dixieland band
32 Employ
33 Melody
34 Brit. record label
35 Retailer's revenue
38 Harrow rival
39 Triumphed
40 Silly Putty container
42 Derisive sounds
45 Brain, slangily
49 Ripped
50 Greek mountain
52 Tehran's country
53 BPOE members
54 Texter's chuckle
55 Tizzy
56 Bygone days
57 French article
58 Youngsters

DOWN

1 Chutzpah
2 Nepal's continent
3 Breathing (Abbr.)
4 Wicker material
5 Jungle-like
6 Director Howard
7 Once around the sun
8 Shrimp recipe
9 Place to surf
10 Ski lift type
11 Outside (Pref.)
19 "I see"
21 Crew tool
24 Gaiety
25 British verb ending
26 ABC and Fox, e.g.
28 Fib
29 Ammunition stores
30 Punk-rock subgenre
31 Can metal
36 Most miffed
37 Busy insect
38 Vain person
41 "Monopoly" square
42 Dance move
43 The Big Easy acronym
44 Ledge
46 Bond foe
47 Cannes milk
48 Tolkien creatures
51 Fawn's mama

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Madison Bumgarner, 30; Jason Momoa, 40; Adam Duritz, 55; Coolio, 56.

Happy Birthday: Look at the big picture, your potential and what it is you truly want to achieve this year. Put your plans in motion. Much can be accomplished if you stay focused. Your vision, coupled with drive and your ability to drum up support, will make it difficult for anyone to thwart your efforts. Your numbers are 5, 12, 19, 23, 34, 37, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A change made in haste will need a few adjustments. Slow down and consider your options, and you'll discover a path that's inviting. A change of scenery will lead to new and exciting opportunities. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Pick your battles wisely. Don't expect everyone to side with you or do things your way. Focus on personal improvements, not trying to change others. Set your goal and give your all to reach your objective. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Trust and believe in yourself. If someone tries to take over, don't take the bait. Do your own thing and reap the rewards. Personal and home improvements will lift your spirits as well as your confidence. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be cautious not to spend when it's unnecessary. You'll feel less stressed and more in control if you focus on bringing money in, not letting it flow out. Discipline and nurturing what you've worked so hard to establish are encouraged. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Check out your options, and research any offers made thoroughly. Look at the long-term effects when considering making a change that can disrupt your life personally and professionally. A risk may tempt you, but the stress involved won't be worthwhile. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A situation at home or with someone you are in a relationship with should be handled realistically. Consider the consequences of your actions before you make a move. A steady, economic, positive pace will bring the best results. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take the initiative to bring about changes that will improve your environment, surroundings and relationship with others. If someone makes a complaint, listen. Do your best to compromise. Personal improvements and romantic plans should be priorities. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Easy does it. You'll be torn between what you want to do and what's right. Talk matters through with a trusted friend or relative who will help you see all sides of a situation. Knowledge is power, so go directly to the source. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take care of financial, legal and medical matters personally. If you trust someone else, you will be disappointed with what transpires. Personal gain can be yours if you negotiate on your own behalf. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Not everyone will be happy with the changes you make, but as long as you feel you've done what's right and best for yourself, that's what counts. Your actions will prompt your friends to reveal who you can trust. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Let a partnership develop naturally. Refuse to let an unexpected change disrupt your plans. Take advantage of whatever opportunity is offered, regardless of what others do. Being assertive will help build a strong and healthy relationship with others. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Let your creative imagination take over. The suggestions you make will draw interest from people who value the same things you do. Join forces to ensure you protect your interests and those who cannot fend for themselves. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charismatic, engaging and generous. You are physical and impulsive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6						1	
		1				8		
	4		2	3			5	
			3		2	9		
		3		8		5		
		8	4		5			
	3			1	6		2	
		9				4		
	1						9	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	7	9	8	2	4	3	5	6
3	8	2	5	7	6	1	4	9
6	4	5	1	9	3	2	8	7
2	9	3	4	5	7	8	6	1
8	5	1	9	6	2	4	7	3
7	6	4	3	8	1	9	2	5
5	3	7	2	4	9	6	1	8
4	1	6	7	3	8	5	9	2
9	2	8	6	1	5	7	3	4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TENDING A HOME GARDEN Solution: 7 letters

F	E	L	C	O	R	N	F	C	R	O	P	S	S	R
H	L	E	G	A	S	K	E	E	L	O	Q	R	R	E
E	A	S	E	I	R	R	E	B	N	U	G	E	E	M
R	K	C	E	L	E	R	Y	I	A	C	R	B	T	M
B	B	A	S	O	W	E	O	S	B	U	E	M	N	I
S	E	H	R	C	S	N	H	T	A	T	E	U	A	R
R	D	S	E	S	I	E	T	Y	C	T	N	C	L	T
L	S	E	P	O	F	N	L	R	K	I	P	U	P	H
E	E	R	P	I	A	E	A	B	Y	N	R	C	O	G
T	V	F	E	L	V	D	E	G	A	G	O	W	T	I
T	O	I	P	O	I	A	S	D	R	T	T	O	A	L
U	L	G	L	S	N	L	L	I	D	O	E	R	T	N
C	G	S	H	S	E	G	A	B	B	A	C	G	O	U
E	S	E	V	I	H	C	T	O	M	A	T	O	E	S
E	S	O	H	D	R	A	H	C	S	S	I	W	S	V

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Backyard, Beans, Beds, Berries, Cabbage, Carrot, Celery, Chives, Corn, Crops, Cucumbers, Cutting, Dill, Eggplant, Feed, Fence, Figs, Fresh, Gloves, Green, Grow, Herbs, Hose, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Lovely, Onion, Organic, Peppers, Planters, Potatoes, Protect, Radishes, Rake, Sage, Soil, Squash, Sunlight, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Trimmer, Vegetables

Yesterday's Answer: Librarian

The NEW Volume 56 can be purchased online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience in bookkeeping, accounting or auditing clerk; &
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter, accounting software such as QuickBooks and/or PeachTree.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience in bookkeeping, accounting or auditing clerk;
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter, accounting software such as QuickBooks and/or PeachTree.

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Teacher's Aide
Job Duties:
Attends to and cares for students ranging from 3-6 years old
Maintains a safe play environment
Supports children's emotional and social development
Performs general cleaning duties around the classroom
Assists in preparing snacks and meals for children

Requirements:
High school diploma or equivalent
Clear background check
Able to communicate clearly in English
Mandarin speakers preferred

Salary based on experience
Come join our amazing team!
Please send resumes to principal@brilliantstar.org
or call (670) 323-7827

New Wave Dental

is looking to hire
(one) 1 employee to work as
Dental Assistant
$12.50 to 15.50 an hour

- Minimum 3 years clinical experience required
- Must be able to assist dentist, know sterilization, set up instruments and take radiographs
- Employer not able to train individuals lacking the necessary skills for this position
- US citizen preferred

Drop your resume in person to our office in Microbeach road, Garapan Saipan or send your resume or Cv via email to mikehalldds@hotmail.com.

Dental Solutions

is looking to hire
(one) 1 employee to work as
Insurance Claims Clerk
$12.50 to 15.50 per hour

- Must have 3 years experience in submitting dental insurance claim and familiar in specific dental coding for billing.
- U.S citizen preferred
- Employer not able to train for this position lacking necessary skills.

Drop resume in person to Microbeach Road, Garapan Saipan MP 96950 or send your resume or CV via email to mikehalldds@hotmail.com.

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

06 Electricians -$8.78-8.78 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. May install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems. Plan layout and installation of electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, based on job specifications and local codes. Connect wires to circuit breakers, transformers, or other components. Test electrical systems or continuity of circuits in electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, using testing devices, such as ohmmeters, voltmeters, or oscilloscopes, to ensure compatibility and safety of system. Use a variety of tools or equipment, such as power construction equipment, measuring devices, power tools, and testing equipment, such as oscilloscopes, ammeters, or test lamps. Inspect electrical systems, equipment, or components to identify hazards, defects, or the need for adjustment or repair, and to ensure compliance with codes.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;
- AT LEAST 24 MONTHS EXPERIENCE
- KNOWLEDGE IN USING MEASURING DEVICES, POWER TOOLS AND TESTING EQUIPMENT SUCH AS OHMMETERS, VOLTMETERS, OSCILLOSCOPES, AMMETERS, OR TEST LAMPS.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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(15) H. E. Mechanics $8.14 to $9.00 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, and conveyors, used in construction, logging, and surface mining. Repair and replace damaged or worn parts. Test mechanical products and equipment after repair or assembly to ensure proper performance and compliance with manufacturers' specifications. Operate and inspect machines or heavy equipment to diagnose defects. Read and understand operating manuals, blueprints, and technical drawings. Dismantle and reassemble heavy equipment using hoists and hand tools.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;
- AT LEAST 24 MONTHS EXPERIENCE
- KNOWLEDGE IN HOIST, HAND TOOLS AND TESTERS.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(15) Maintenance Technicians $8.11 to $8.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs. Inspect, operate, or test machinery or equipment to diagnose machine malfunctions. Dismantle machines, equipment, or devices to access and remove defective parts, using hoists, cranes, hand tools, or power tools. Perform routine maintenance, such as inspecting drives, motors, or belts, checking fluid levels, replacing filters, or doing other preventive maintenance actions. Diagnose mechanical problems and determine how to correct them, checking blueprints, repair manuals, or parts catalogs, as necessary.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;
- AT LEAST 24 MONTHS EXPERIENCE
- KNOWLEDGE IN USING HAND AND POWER TOOLS SUCH AS CORDLESS POWER DRILLS, POWER CIRCULAR SAWS AND PULLERS.

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KOREA TOURISM INC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) TRAVEL AGENT
JOB DUTIES
Plan and sell transportation and accommodations for travel agency customers, determine destination modes of transportation, travel dates, costs and accommodations required, may also described plan and arrange itineraries and sell tour packages, may assist in resolving clients travel problems.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be high school graduate
- With one-year work experience as travel agent
- With computer skills required
- Korean Speaking required

Salary: 14.84/hr
This job opportunity is a temporary full-time position

(1) TOUR GUIDE
JOB DUTIES
Describe tour points of interest to group members, and respond to questions, escort individuals, or groups to cruises, sightseeing tours or thru places of interest such as individual establishments, public buildings, and art galleries, conduct education activities for school for school children, monitor visitors activities, to ensure compliance with establishment or tour regulations and safety practices, provide directions and other pertinent information to visitors.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be high school graduate
- With at least 6 months' work experience as tour guide
- With customer service-oriented person
- With good moral character
- Able to read and speak in Korean language

Salary: 9.23/hr

This job opportunity is a temporary full-time position

Interested Applicants can email their resume to susupe302@gmail.com
Or fax to 233-3005 or can call office number 233-3001 for more information
From Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) Truck Driver 8.00 to 8.35 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Drive a tractor-trailer combination or a truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 pounds Gross Drive a tractor-trailer combination or a truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). May be required to unload truck. Requires commercial drivers' license. Check vehicles to ensure that mechanical, safety, and emergency equipment is in good working order. Follow appropriate safety procedures for transporting dangerous goods. Inspect loads to ensure that cargo is secure. Maintain logs of working hours or of vehicle service or repair status, following applicable state and federal regulations. Secure cargo for transport, using ropes, blocks, chain, binders, or covers. Vehicle Weight (GVW), May be required to unload truck. Requires commercial drivers' license. Check vehicles to ensure that mechanical, safety, and emergency equipment is in good working order. Follow appropriate safety procedures for transporting dangerous goods. Inspect loads to ensure that cargo is secure. Maintain logs of working hours or of vehicle service or repair status, following applicable state and federal regulations. Secure cargo for transport, using ropes, blocks, chain, binders, or covers.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate
- At least 12 months experience
- Should possess a CNMI, Driver's License

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-GAR-114

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 26, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

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/S/ VIRGINIA VILLAGOMEZ
GOVERNORS AUTHORIZED REP.

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR OF P&S

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3. Correspond with tour operators in Korea.
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7. Assist in selling of optional tours, assist customers on daily basis in explaining all the optional tours and rental items available and perform other duties as assigned or as required.
8. Explain the different optional tours available on the island.
9. Explain and inform tourist customers about the different historic tourist spots on the island to give each customers knowledge about the islands history and its significance to the people of Saipan.

Requirements:
1. Two years related experience in tour/travel industry.
2. Must be able to speak, read and write Korean Language.
3. Computer skill required, excel and word.
4. At least High school graduate.
5. Traffic and Police clearance required (Will be applied equally to US workers and CW-1 workers).
6. Must possess a Tour Guide Certificate from MVA/NMC.
7. Must possess a valid CNMI Driver's License.
8. Must be willing to work flexible schedule.
9. Previous work experience certificate required (Will be applied equally to US workers and CW-1 Workers).

Salary: $ 9.23 per hour
This is a temporary full time position

Interested applicants Send resume to dreampacificcorp2016@gmail.com or call 1-670-234-1667 (Monday to Saturday 9am-6pm).

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 12:00 pm, in CHCC conference Room 3.

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Approval of Agenda
IV. Adoption of Minutes
V. Public Comments
VI. Credential Privileges
New Applicants:
1) Dr. Stan Chao
2) Dr. Maria Hy
VII. To vote and approve the revised Medical Staff Bylaws
VIII. PHI Pharmacy – Requested Lease Extension
IX. Senate Bill 21-26
X. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session to consult with legal counsel.
XI. Adjournment

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Indians dealing Bauer to Reds for Puig

CLEVELAND (AP)—Trevor Bauer's final act for the Indians was throwing a ball over the center-field wall.

Yasiel Puig ended his season with Cincinnati in another brawl.

Cleveland agreed to trade Bauer, the talented but taxing right-hander, to the Reds on Tuesday night for Puig in a three-team deal that also involves the San Diego Padres, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The Indians, who are trying to catch the Minnesota Twins in the AL Central, also get left-hander Scott Moss from Cincinnati and slugging outfielder Franmil Reyes, lefty Logan Allen and infielder Victor Nova from the Padres, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the trade had not been announced.

San Diego receives minor league outfielder Taylor Trammell from the Reds, the person said.

AP

Cincinnati Reds' Yasiel Puig (66) is restrained by Pittsburgh Pirates third baseman Colin Moran (19) during the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 30, 2019, in Cincinnati.

In his last start for the Indians on Sunday, Bauer, who is not eligible for free agency until after the 2020 season, threw a ball in frustration from the mound in Kansas City over the center-field wall. The moment seemed to push the Indians over the edge with the enigmatic 28-year-old, who has one of baseball's best arms but can be difficult.

Bauer was fined by Major League Baseball for his starting heave, a person familiar with the discipline told the AP. The person spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity because the discipline was not announced.

Bauer talked and exchanged hugs with several teammates in the clubhouse following Cleveland's 2-0 loss to the Houston Astros before he departed around 10:45 p.m. He declined to speak with reporters.

The Reds did not confirm the trade, but Puig said he's bound for Cleveland, where the club's front office was being celebrated for not only getting rid of Bauer but for adding young, quality players who can impact the playoff race.

"I'm going to miss all my teammates here," Puig said after the Reds lost 11-4 to Pittsburgh. "This part of the year is amazing for me, being on this team and the city. Now it's time to move forward and go to my new team and help my team go to the playoffs. ... I want to say thank you to all the city, Cincinnati. We stay next door — we're going to Cleveland."

A former All-Star, Puig is batting .252 with 22 home runs, 61 RBIs and 14 steals in 100 games with the Reds, who acquired him in December in a seven-player swap with the Dodgers.

The Cuban-born outfielder has a career .275 average with 130 homers and 391 RBIs in 812 games. He's eligible for free agency after the 2019 season.

Bauer is 9-8 with a 3.79 ERA in 24 starts this season, but he hasn't been as consistent as the Indians have needed while waiting for two-time Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber (broken arm) and Carlos Carrasco (leukemia) to return to their rotation. Bauer had angered the Indians during the offseason for comments he made after winning his arbitration case and pledging he would only sign one-year deals going forward.

Cleveland has been looking to add power to its lineup and Puig and Reyes will help.

However, Puig is facing a possible suspension after he was involved in another brawl with the Pirates just as the trade was coming together.

In the ninth inning, Reds reliever Amir Garrett rushed the Pirates' dugout and threw punches, starting a brawl prolonged by Puig. As he left the field for the final time, Puig was given a warm ovation from Reds fans. He was also at the center of a melee between the teams in April, when Puig seemed to be taking on the entire Pirates team by himself near home plate.

The 24-year-old Reyes hit .255 with 27 homers and 46 RBIs in 99 games with the Padres this season. In his last 29 games, the right-handed hitter is batting .290 with eight homers and 13 RBIs.

Verlander strikes out 13, Astros blank Indians

CLEVELAND (AP)—Justin Verlander struck out 13 to reach double figures for the third straight start and sixth time this season, leading the Houston Astros over the Cleveland Indians 2-0 on Tuesday night.

Verlander (14-4) outpitched Shane Bieber and won his fourth consecutive start, tying Washington's Stephen Strasburg for the major league lead in wins. Verlander allowed two hits in seven innings and walked none.

He allowed one runner to reach second. Cleveland's only hits were singles by Roberto Pérez leading off the third and Greg Allen starting the sixth.

Cleveland struck out 15 times. Will Harris fanned two in a perfect eighth and Roberto Osuna followed with a 1-2-3 ninth for his 24th save in 28 chances.

Braves 11, Nationals 8

In Washington, Adam Duvall had two home runs and four hits, Josh Donaldson added a three-run homer and the Atlanta beat the Nationals to reopen a 5½-game lead in the NL East.

Julio Teheran (6-7) allowed two runs and seven hits in 6 2/3 innings for Atlanta.

Erick Fedde (1-2) allowed nine runs, nine hits and four walks in 3 2/3 innings.

Pirates 11, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Reds reliever Amir Garrett rushed the Pirates' dugout and threw punches in the ninth inning, starting a brawl prolonged by Reds outfielder Yasiel Puig, and Pittsburgh ended its longest losing streak in eight years

Reds manager David Bell ran onto the field to join the fracas after being ejected an inning earlier. In all, five Reds were ejected.

The dust-up was sparked when Pittsburgh's Keone Kela threw up-and-in to Derek Dietrich in the seventh. After the inning, first baseman Joey Votto walked toward the Pirates dugout and exchanged words with Kela.

The ejections started in the eighth, when Josh Bell was tossed for arguing a strike call. Reds reliever Jared Hughes was ejected in the ninth for hitting Starling Marte.

Rays 6, Red Sox 5

In Boston, Avísail García homered and added the go-ahead, two-run double in the sixth inning in Tampa Bay's win over the Red Sox.

Travis d'Arnaud and García homered to give the Rays a 4-3 lead in the fifth and help chase David Price.

Andrew Benintendi homered for Boston.

Diamondbacks 4, Yankees 2

In New York, rookie Taylor Clarke was an impressive winner in his Yankee Stadium debut, and Arizona got home runs from Christian Walker and Carson Kelly to beat the Yankees.

Nick Ahmed hit an RBI single and Adam Jones had an early sacrifice fly for the Diamondbacks.

J.A. Happ (8-6) allowed three runs in six innings for a struggling New York staff.

Phillies 4, Giants 2

In Philadelphia, Drew Smyly tossed seven shutout innings and Rhys Hoskins homered to lead the Phillies over San Francisco.

The Giants had won 12 of 15 and 19 of 24 to jump back into the playoff picture, but couldn't solve Smyly (2-5) in his second start for the Phillies.

Smyly scattered four hits and struck out five, helping send the Giants to their seventh straight loss in Philadelphia. Hector Neris picked up his 19th save.

Orioles 8, Padres 5

In San Diego, Chris Davis hit a go-ahead home run in the eighth inning to snap an 0-for-18 slump, and Baltimore rallied from a four-run deficit.

Davis connected off Matt Strahm (4-8) with one out in the eighth for just his eighth home run this season.

Baltimore added on with a two-run single by Trey Mancini off Michel Báez, saddling Strahm with five runs in 1 2/3 innings.

Twins 2, Marlins 1

In Miami, Byron Buxton homered and Jake Odorizzi followed his worst big league start by pitching one-run ball into the sixth inning, leading Minnesota past Miami.

Odorizzi (12-5) allowed a run and four hits in 5 2/3 innings. He struck out five and walked one.

Tyler Duffey relieved Odorizzi and struck out two in 1 1/3 innings. Sergio Romo, acquired from Miami on Saturday, pitched a scoreless eight and Taylor Rogers retired the three batters he faced in the ninth for his 16th save.

Mariners 8, Rangers 5

In Arlington, Kyle Seager had a solo homer, a tiebreaking two-run triple and drove in four runs as Seattle stretched its winning streak to six games.

Domingo Santana hit his 21st homer for the Mariners (47-63), who matched their longest winning streak this year.

Sam Tuivailala (1-0) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings in relief of starter Mike Leake, who allowed 10 hits and five runs in 5 2/3 innings.

Dodgers 9, Rockies 4

In Denver, Kristopher Negron homered in his first at-bat with Los Angeles, one of four connections by the Dodgers in a win over the Colorado Rockies.

A.J. Pollock, Russell Martin and Justin Turner also went deep for Los Angeles. The Dodgers became the first team in the majors to reach 70 wins and increased their lead in the NL West to 15 games over San Francisco.

Cardinals 2, Cubs 1

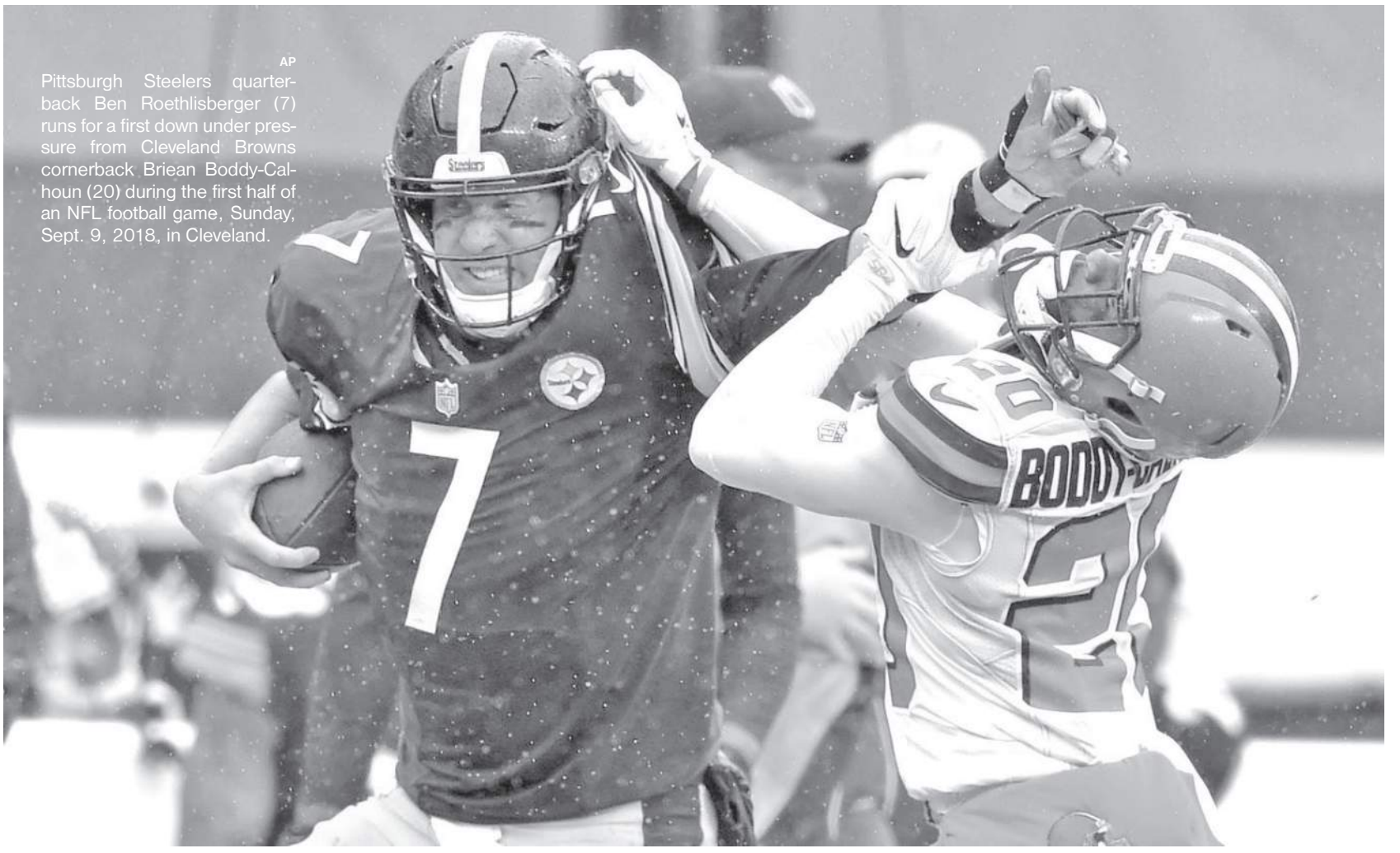
In St. Louis, Paul Goldschmidt is so hot at the plate, not even Yu Darvish can slow him down.

Goldschmidt homered for the seventh time in eight games, a go-ahead drive off Darvish in the sixth inning that lifted the Cardinals over the Cubs and back into sole possession of the NL Central lead.

Goldschmidt was 1 for 14 against Darvish before hitting a single and the winning home run.

A six-time All-Star, Goldschmidt drove a fastball from Darvish (3-5) to center for his 25th home run this season.

Big Ben faces test after offseason criticism



AP
Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) runs for a first down under pressure from Cleveland Browns cornerback Briean Boddy-Calhoun (20) during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 9, 2018, in Cleveland.

LATROBE, Pa.—Ben Roethlisberger admits it. The parting body shots from former teammates Antonio Brown and Le'Veon Bell after their offseason departures—they ripped the Pittsburgh Steelers marquee quarterback for his leadership style—stung a bit.

"We're all human," Roethlisberger said after a training camp practice this week. "No one likes to be talked about. But honestly, they're gone. So, I can't concern myself with what people outside this locker room are saying.

"It is what it is," he added. "You're not happy, you say things."

For years, the rugged Roethlisberger, 37 and heading into his 16th NFL season, has come across as a franchise quarterback with a few extra layers of tough skin. He seems to accept criticism and intense scrutiny as inherent with his high-profile job. In adverse situations—like after tough losses—he is hardly the duck-and-hide type. He is typically the stand-up man who can be found.

So, it figures the offseason buzz that cast a spotlight on his leadership will roll off his back, like more than a few defenders have over the years when he extends plays.

"The thing about being a leader—and I'd like to think I'm a good leader; I've been doing it a long time—is that leadership is about winning football games," Roethlisberger said. "That should speak for itself."

Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger had his leadership style questioned by former teammates Antonio Brown and Le'Veon Bell after their offseason departures.

Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger had his leadership style questioned by former teammates Antonio Brown and Le'Veon Bell after their offseason departures. (Photo: Philip G. Pavely, USA TODAY Sport)

Count Steelers coach Mike Tomlin in the group insisting that this leadership topic is overblown.

"Ben needs to be himself," Tomlin said. "That's all I'll ever ask of him and all of these guys. Lead with your own voice."

Still, as much as the Steelers aim to squash the topic—several teammates have vociferously defended Roethlisberger—it appears that a nerve was struck nonetheless.

Maybe Brown and Bell, now with the Raiders and Jets, respectively, made a parting contribution, too. Roethlisberger—who has been prone to publicly call out teammates on his weekly radio show in a manner that, well, you don't hear from Tom Brady—talks about continuing to evolve as a leader.

"I think each guy, whether it's a lineman or any position, has to be led in a different way," he said. "Some guys need to be hollered at, some guys need to be pulled aside, some guys you need to show them. So, there are different ways. The fun, challenging part about being a leader is that you have to know how to handle each guy."

With the most unsettled wide receiver corps the Steelers have entered camp with in years, Roethlisberger's leadership package has a distinctly fresh test as he comes off a season in which he led the NFL with 5,129 yards and threw for a franchise-record 34 TD passes. They need him to break in a young group that is short on experience in Pittsburgh's system.

JuJu Smith-Schuster is pegged to assume the No. 1 role that Brown excelled in as arguably the league's best receiver. And heading into his third season, Smith-Schuster also is suddenly the senior receiver when it comes to real-time snaps with Roethlisberger. The remainder of the roles are expected to filled by, in no particular order, second-year pro James Washington, veteran free agent addition Donte Moncrief, Eli Rogers, Ryan Switzer and rookie Diontae Johnson.

It's no wonder that Roethlisberger's constant strategy chats with receivers, particularly between plays, was a striking image during the first few days of camp. Even when he doesn't practice (he gets every third day off as a preservation measure), he's heavily involved.

"It's about teaching," Roethlisberger said. "I'd say I do as much coaching as playing out here, because I'm the one that's on the field. I'm the one who has to tell these guys what I expect on the field, as far as receivers and stuff. So, I just try to do as much as I can as far as communicating with those guys … help as much as I can.

"When you first come into the league, you don't know what to do. You're just trying to survive. Now it's about coming here helping other players survive."

Washington, for one, credits his quarterback for the hands-on instruction that he maintains has gone far in allowing him to be more relaxed with his role in the offense.

3 QBs to make Denver debut in Hall of Fame Game

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—None of the Broncos' four quarterbacks have ever taken a snap for them in a game. Three of them will make their Denver debut Thursday night against the Atlanta Falcons in Canton, Ohio.

Joe Flacco , acquired in a trade with Baltimore last winter, will sit out the Hall of Fame Game that kicks off the NFL exhibition slate along with most of the Broncos' other starters.

Rookies Drew Lock and Brett Rypien will get some work against Atlanta behind fourth-year pro Kevin Hogan, the incumbent backup who joined the Broncos last September off waivers.

"Whoa! I'm not used to this," Hogan exclaimed when he stepped in front of the media pack Tuesday.

A heady QB whose 36 wins at Stanford broke Andrew Luck's school record, Hogan has made just one start in his three-year pro career, for Cleveland in 2017.

Hogan, who didn't take a single snap behind Case Keenum last season, said he was eager for his first start for the Broncos this preseason.

"I feel like I've put a lot of good work in the offseason and camp, grown within the offense, within this system, taken the coaching points," Hogan said. "So, I just want to go out and prove that I can execute the offense, be an efficient quarterback and score some points."

Hogan realizes his audition isn't necessarily for the Broncos , who see Flacco as the unchallenged starter in 2019 and Lock, a second-round pick from Missouri, as the franchise's future.

"Yeah, I'm realistic. Everyone's self-aware. But at the same time you've got to control what you can control and I'm just worried about me," Hogan said. "I believe if I can push myself to my potential and keep getting better, then there will be a place for me, whether it's here" or elsewhere.

"I'd love to be here. I love our room. I love our coaching staff and love being a Bronco," Hogan said. "So, I'm going to go out and make the most of this opportunity."

Flacco and Lock are unquestionably the ones that the Broncos' brass and their fans are eager to see play this summer. Lock gets that chance first while Flacco will have to wait until Aug. 8 against Seattle.

"Of course when I go out there, I'm going to be a little fired up to show people what I can do and definitely bring the juice that I brought through college," Lock said.

Unlike in years past, there's no open quarterback competition at training camp, except to see who will back up Flacco, and Hogan said he understands the hype surrounding Lock.

"He's very talented and eager to get better," Hogan said. "A great guy to have in the room and you know the talent's there, and it's just about getting reps and experience and he's going to be around for a long time."

First, Lock has to adjust to the pro game after taking precious few snaps under center in college, where he relied on his athleticism—he grew up playing basketball, too—ad-libbing when plays broke down or his primary read was covered.

The coaches aren't expecting Lock to make the jump all at once.

"It's a journey," offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello said. "In the end, it takes time to mature as a quarterback in the NFL. There are no shortcuts."

Lock said he wasn't bothered by being the backup to the backup to start out.

"I think you'll still see the same me. I'm confident in what I can do," Lock said. "Whether I go in at the beginning of the game or go in at the end of the game, I'm going to be the same guy and prove to people that one day I should be starting these games."

Meanwhile, Coach Vic Fangio snuffed out speculation that LT Garett Bolles' starting job was in jeopardy with Elijah Wilkinson playing so well. "Well, right now Garett's the starter. He's the incumbent and somebody's got to knock him out, kind of like a heavyweight championship," Fangio said. "And so far he's had a great camp. So, if we were to play today against Oakland (in the season opener), he'd be the starter hands-down. Unanimous decision."

In New York, Jets wide receiver Jamison Crowder has been cleared by the team to practice after an injury scare.

Crowder hurt his left foot during practice Monday and walked with a noticeable limp as he left the field. Coach Adam Gase said Crowder would have tests, including an MRI, to determine the nature and severity of the injury.

Ellis stepping down after 2 World Cup titles

NEW YORK (AP)—With two Women's World Cup titles in hand, U.S. national team coach Jill Ellis says it's time to move on.

Ellis announced Tuesday that she's resigning, just more than three weeks after the United States raised a second consecutive World Cup trophy following a dominant and record-setting run. She said she started thinking about stepping away around the start of the year, with the intention of seeing the team through this summer's tournament.

"It's obviously been a fantastic run, a fantastic ride," she said.

Ellis said she wanted to spend more time with her family after more than five years in charge of the team. Currently taking some time off following the victorious monthlong odyssey in France, she said doesn't know what's next.

"I just need to take a step back and take it all in and see what next intrigues me and piques my interest," she told reporters on a conference call.

Ellis, 52, was named coach of the team in 2014 and has led it to eight overall tournament titles, including victories at the World Cup in 2015 and earlier this year. Over the course of her tenure, the United States lost just seven matches.

She will remain with the team for a World Cup victory tour which kicks off Saturday with a match against Ireland at the Rose Bowl. Following the conclusion of the five-match tour in October, she will serve as a U.S. Soccer ambassador for at least a year.

Ellis' contract was set to expire following the World Cup with a mutual option to extend it through the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. U.S. Soccer will begin the search for a new coach after a general manager for the women's team is named. The federation expects to name a GM soon.

AP

United States coach Jill Ellis shouts instructions during the Women's World Cup final soccer match between US and The Netherlands at the Stade de Lyon in Decines, outside Lyon, France, Sunday, July 7, 2019.

"Jill was always extremely passionate about this team, analytical, tremendously focused and not afraid to make tough decisions while giving her players the freedom to play to their strengths," U.S. Soccer President Carlos Cordeiro said in a statement. "She helped raise the bar for women's soccer in the USA and the world, and given the history of this program, the level of success she achieved is even more remarkable."

Ellis' assistant coach, Tony Gustavsson, is also stepping down after eight years with the team.

Over the summer in France, Ellis broke April Heinrich's U.S. women's team record for most games coached. Overall, she has led the team in 127 matches, with 102 wins.

Ellis was named head coach after serving as interim coach following the dismissal of Tom Sermanni. Ellis also served as interim coach after Pia Sundhage resigned in 2012.

She was an assistant to both and was on the staff of the gold medal-winning teams at the Beijing and London Olympics. She also served as head coach at UCLA for 12 seasons.

"When I accepted the head coaching position this was the timeframe I envisioned," Ellis said. "The timing is right to move on and the program is positioned to remain at the pinnacle of women's soccer. Change is something I have always embraced in my life and for me and my family this is the right moment."

The World Cup title in 2015 was the team's first since winning it all in 1999. Overall, the team has won soccer's most prestigious tournament four times.

The top-ranked U.S. team has been dominant throughout Ellis' tenure. The team went undefeated in the 2015 World Cup in Canada en route to a 5-2 victory over Japan in the title match. The United States gave up just three goals over the course of the tournament.

Earlier this month, the U.S. defeated the Netherlands 2-0 in Lyon, France, to claim its second straight championship, after challenging knockout victories over No. 4 France and No. 3 England. The Americans never trailed at the tournament and set records with 26 goals and a 12-game World Cup winning streak dating to 2015. Ellis became the first coach to lead a team to two Women's World Cup titles.

But there was also disappointment during her time at the helm. The defending champions were knocked out in the quarterfinals in the 2016 Brazil Olympics by Sweden, the team's earliest departure ever in the tournament.

Ellis said she thought it was important to allow a new head coach to get major tournament experience in the Tokyo Games before the next World Cup.

"I've actually worked in three Olympics, so it's an experience I've had, with Pia in Beijing and London, and obviously in Brazil," she said.

Ellis also said it would be fantastic if she was succeeded by a woman.

The United States is set to play Portugal on Aug. 29 in Philadelphia and on Sept. 3 in St. Paul, Minnesota. The final two matches of the victory tour, set for early October, have not yet been announced.

USMNT supports equal pay fight

The U.S. men's national team isn't happy with how U.S. Soccer is treating the women's team, and the USMNT is not being quiet about it.

The USMNT players association released a statement on Tuesday in response to the factsheet U.S. Soccer released on Monday. The factsheet sought to prove that the women's team had been paid more than the men's team (possibly through some non-traditional accounting), but actually highlighted the unnecessary differences between the compensation structures for each team. And the USMNT wasn't having it.

The USMNT players found every weakness in U.S. Soccer president Carlos Cordeiro's letter and disputed it. They called out Cordeiro and U.S. Soccer for being solely profit-focused and not growing the sport. They took Cordeiro to task for claiming that the USWNT lost $27 million over 11 years, calling it "false accounting." And they even dismantle Cordeiro's solution, which was to grow women's soccer by having fans watch games on TV and buy tickets to see them play in person.

"The USMNT players were not impressed with U.S. Soccer Federation president Carlos Cordeiro's letter made public on Monday," the statement read.

"The federation downplays contributions to the sport when it suits them. This is more of the same from a Federation that is constantly in disputes and litigation and focuses on increasing revenue and profits without any idea how to use that money to grow the sport," it added. "One way to increase profit unfairly is to refuse to pay national team players a fair share of the revenue they generate."

While the men's team isn't suing U.S. Soccer like the women's team, it's also struggling with labor issues. The USMNT players' collective bargaining agreement expired in December 2018, and they've been playing without one ever since. In the statement, the USMNT players said that U.S. Soccer hasn't contacted them about their proposal that would pay them more fairly based on the revenue they generate, and would give both the men's and women's team equal pay.

Solo calls for legal action vs USWNT

Meanwhile, Hope Solo is still trying to get a seat during mediation sessions between the U.S. Soccer Federation and the United States Women's National Team, even after both sides have shot down the idea.

The former USWNT goalie filed a "strongly-worded" 10-page motion on Monday, calling for legal sanctions against her former teammates and their attorneys days after they rejected her request to join their mediation sessions with the USSF regarding their equal pay lawsuit filed earlier this year. Both the USWNT and the USSF said on Friday that, "with all due respect," Solo's help isn't needed in the mediation sessions.

In the motion filed on Monday, Solo said that their brief rejecting her bid to join the mediation sessions needs to be removed from the official record. Otherwise, Solo maintains her reputation will take a major hit, according to The Athletic.

The "improper filing of the untruthful Opposition has already caused Solo to suffer undeserved irreparable harm, ridicule and humiliation in the mainstream and social media," she wrote in the motion, via The Athletic.

The USWNT first filed its gender discrimination lawsuit against the USSF in March. Both sides agreed to mediation in the equal pay lawsuit after the team's 2-0 win against the Netherlands in the Women's World Cup last month.

Solo has her own similar pending equal-pay lawsuit against the USSF, filed last August, which she argued in part that she believes she was dismissed from the USWNT due to her role in the fight for equal pay. Solo's contract with U.S. Soccer was terminated shortly after a loss to Sweden in the 2016 Olympics, when she called the Swedish team "a bunch of cowards."

In her motion, Solo asked the court to strike the USWNT motion, assess them her legal fees and rule their class council is "inadequate," according to The Athletic. She claimed that the USWNT had no right to reject her bid to join their mediation sessions, because they "are a non-party to her case," per the report.

USWNT outside lawyer Jeff Kessler, however, isn't sure what rule they violated by rejecting her bid.

"I am not aware of any federal rule that has been violated by this filing (the USWNT motion)," Kessler wrote in an email to Solo's legal team on Monday, via The Athletic. "Please identify the basis for your claim and we will then evaluate it."

Connie's BBQ, Tsingtao Boyz top foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two more teams entered the win column in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League after beating their respective opponents last Tuesday at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

In the curtain-raiser, Tsingtao Boyz dominated Gilas Batang, 72-57, while Connie's BBQ outclassed IT&E Dark in the nightcap, 73-66. Tsingtao Boyz and Connie's BBQ joined opening day victors IT&E Light and Mawati in the winners circle of the 12-team league.

Connie's BBQ prevailed in the seesaw battle after saving its best for last. The squad scored 25 points in the fourth period—its biggest production in a quarter.

Before going all out in the final canto, Connie's BBQ once fell behind by 8 in the third, 34-42, as Feric Aguon managed to hit three triples for IT&E Dark in the penultimate frame. Connie's BBQ then regrouped late in the third to take back the upper hand, 48-45, going into the final canto, with Austin Camacho scoring 6 of the team's last 8 markers.

Connie's BBQ went on to keep its distance, as Camacho got enough help from his teammates to foil IT&E Dark's repeated comeback bids. Joel Andrew Danao delivered 8 points in the fourth quarter after ending the first three periods with only a deuce to his credit. Darwin Barbo and Camacho added 4 points each, while three other Connie's BBQ players also hit the board in the payoff canto.

While Connie's BBQ spread the wealth in the fourth frame, it was a different story for IT&E Dark, which had only Aguon, Ivan Devero, and Raymark Castro knocking in baskets in the finale.

Meanwhile, Tsingtao Boyz also ran a balanced offense to beat Gilas Batang.

Jetsen Jandoc led Tsingtao Boyz with his 22 points, while Jess Pineda and Gerald Rivera finished in double-figures, too with 12 and 11 markers, respectively. Four other Tsingtao Boyz players contributed at least 6 points apiece, as the squad led from start to finish.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Connie's BBQ's Austin Camacho, left, challenges the shot of IT&E Dark's Joy Dayrit during the third quarter of their game in the One Pacific caging last Tuesday at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

US PGA Tour to reduce players cut

LOS ANGELES—Fewer players will make the cut at US PGA Tour events in the 2019-2020 season, US media reported Tuesday.

Golf Digest reported the tour's policy board approved changes that will reduce the number of players making the 36-hole cut from the top 70 players and those tied to the Top 65.

The new rules will also eliminate the secondary 54-hole cut, which were used to reduce the field for the final round in tournaments in which 78 or more players made the 36-hole cut.

England's Paul Casey, a member of the tour's Player Advisory Council, told Golf Digest he's in favor of the system, even though it will see prize money going to fewer players.

"As long as we're not taking away opportunities to get into events—and I don't think this is taking away earnings or opportunities for players—this is the right thing to do," Casey said.

Having fewer players on the weekend will reduce instances of having to play in threesomes rather than pairs and use split tees in order to get the final rounds completed on schedule.

"We have to protect the product," Casey said. "We have too many three-balls and two-tee starts on the weekend."

Meanwhile, new events in Japan and Bermuda plus a return for the Greenbrier and Houston Open were named Tuesday as part of an expanded 2019-20 US PGA schedule.

The next campaign will include 49 events, three more than the current season, with additions to the early events and some shifts late in the schedule near the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The new season begins September 12-15 at the Greenbrier resort in West Virginia followed by four more US events, including the Houston Open, which like the Greenbrier took a one-year hiatus after a major PGA schedule revamp for this season.

A three-week Asian swing follows with the CJ Cup in South Korea, the new Zozo Championship in Japan replacing a previous stop in Malaysia and the WGC HSBC Championship in Shanghai the same week as the new Bermuda Championship at Port Royal in Southampton.

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set loss to slip past the Cook Islands' Te Akaiti Toa and Moana Une, 1-6, 6-1, 10-4.

Earlier in the battle for the singles crown in the same age group, Dusserre-Valleaux swept Tupuola, 6-0, 6-2. In the third place game, Guam's Alicia Addison won over Une, 6-0, 6-4.

In the boys U14 singles finale, Fiji's Makati Ofati topped Vanuatu's Zachary Sands, 6-3, 6-3, while the former's compatriot, Storm Charles Cornish, edged Noah Molbaleh, also from Vanuatu, in the consolation match, 6-0, 2-6, 10-8.

Fiji went on to sweep the boys U14 after Ofati and Cornish clinched the doubles crown following a 6-2, 6-3 triumph over Molbaleh and Sands.

Team event starts

Meanwhile, there will be no breather for Pacific Oceania players, as the team event will kick off today.

Day 1 schedule will have the CNMI-led North Team facing the West in the U16 age group, the West and East squaring off in the U14, and the East and North meeting in the U12.

Woo will be the North's first singles player, while the three others are Lee, Guam's Aidan Schembari, and the Federated States of Micronesia's Noel Narruhn. Addison, FSM's Anne Skilling and Ridianne Wolphagen and the CNMI's Maria Gregoire will play in the girls singles. There will also be doubles games in the team event—boys and girls and mixed.

In the U12 age group, the CNMI's has only one player on the North—Juncheol Hwang—and he will be the squad's second singles player and will also compete in the boys doubles (with Guam's Johnny Jackson) and mixed (with Freemont Gibson).

The North's U14 team won't have its first game until tomorrow and it will be against the West. Daniel Kang, Anthony Gregoire, David Kwon, Serin Chung, Hyejin Elliot, and Helen Kim are the CNMI players on the North crew.

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Korea, represent the CNMI well, and beat Guam," said Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, echoing NMIFA Executive Committee member Norman Del Rosario's earlier call for the squad to down the islands' southern neighbor.

Tan, Del Rosario, other NMIFA officials, club officers, visiting coach Ryuji Sueoka of St. Catherine University, and the players' parents were among the well-wishers of the U15 squad during a send-off ceremony held yesterday at Kanoa Resort.

"I would like to commend all our players for their hard work in preparing for this festival. I've noticed that your skin color is turning darker and darker and that is a testament to your diligence in training under the sun, doing everything to get better," Tan added.

The CNMI U15 team, which is made up of Pia Ngewakl, Christina Atalig, Julianne Hall, Rizza Relucio, Jannah Casarino, Summer Manahane, Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, Marinel Falalimpa, Nathanette Blas, Stephanie Flores, Allyssya Angeles, Julie Ann Capayas, Sophia Quintos, Aubrey and Audrey Castro, Mary Joy Aniana and Paulynn Joyce, will play Guam on Aug. 5, Mongolia on Aug. 6, and Hong Kong on Aug. 7. The group will also duel two other teams in Group A of the festival. Japan, China, Chinese-Taipei, and host South Korea are in Group A.

"You will have an opportunity to play against some of the best teams in Asia. Whatever results you have in the EAFF festival, being able to play there is already a victory in itself. It's very difficult to organize a group of players and send them over to an off-island event, especially we are in the recovery process from Super Typhoon Yutu," the NMIFA head added.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, left, congratulates Marinel Falalimpa for making it to the CNMI Girls U15 National Team that will play in the 2019 East Asian Football Federation U15 Girls Festival in Mokpo, South Korea from Aug. 5 to 10.

"But we are able to pull it through with the help of our friends in the EAFF, our coaches, NMIFA staff, and your parents. Our youth program will not be possible without your supportive parents," Tan added.

Getting younger and better

The CNMI U15 team will be coached by Olympian Luem Khen Koo and he is pleased to see half of the squad are first-timers.

"It means the CNMI national team is getting younger and younger and more and more players are joining the program. This bunch of young players is also getting better since we started the training and they will learn more after this event," Koo said.

"This is a festival so everybody gets to play and that means every player will experience how it feels like to be at this level. I also believe we will have some positive results from these games," the coach added.

Aubrey Castro is one of the newcomers on the squad, and is excited and nervous at the same time with the prospects of playing against different countries for the first time.

"It's a privilege to be selected on the national team. I'm quite nervous about playing there, but I just have to keep reminding myself to do the things we learn from our training and trust my teammates and our leaders," said the Grace Christian Academy student.

One of those leaders is captain Hall, who also suited up for the triumphant U19 team in the Marianas Cup. With her teammates looking up to her and co-captain Blas, she vowed to lead by example and also keep the team together on and off the pitch.

"We just have to remain focus and be observant throughout the event so we can learn a lot from the festival. This is what we trained for, we know what do to and hopefully after these games, we will become better players and a better team," Hall said.

As for Blas, she thanked all those people who worked hard for them to have this special opportunity.

"Not every player can make it to the national team and compete off-island, so we would like to thank everyone who helped us become one, for shaping us into becoming members of the CNMI team," Blas said.

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CNMI mantra: Beat Guam

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players and officials of the CNMI Girls U15 National Team pose for a photo after the send-off ceremony yesterday at Kanoa Resort. The group will be participating in the 2019 East Asian Football Federation U15 Girls Festival in Mokpo, South Korea from Aug. 5 to 10.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After the CNMI Women's U19 National Team's shutout win over Guam in the 2019 Marianas Cup, it's the CNMI Girls U15 National Team's turn to deliver against the Commonwealth's rival.

Guam is one of the five squads that the CNMI U15 players will be facing when they play in the 2019 East Asian Football Federation U15 Girls Festival in Mokpo, South Korea from Aug. 5 to 10.

"Enjoy the games in South

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Guest and St. Catherine University (Japan) coach Ryuji Sueoka, left, gives a message to the players and officials of the CNMI Girls U15 National Team, as he joins Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, center, and general secretary Ross Zapanta on stage to wish the South Korea-bound squad good luck.

Junior players settle for runner-up honors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Jimin Woo fell short in his twin title bids in the 2019 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji yesterday.

Woo first lost in the boys U16 singles finals, which Pacific Games bronze medalist Clement Mainguy of Vanuatu dominated, 6-0, 6-0. Then in the doubles championship game, Woo and Lee were defeated by Mainguy and the Solomon Islands' Junior Miki, 6-2, 6-1.

In other results, Fiji's Saoirse Breen duplicated Mainguy's pair of titles in the girls U16 age group. Breen was handed the singles crown, as Samoa's Eleanor Schuster got injured and could no longer continue to play in the finale. It was a tough luck for Schuster, as she won the first set, 6-1, and was still ahead in the second, 5-4, when she was forced to quit the match.

With Schuster out, she and Penina Kamu had to give up the doubles title to Breen and the Solomon Islands' Zorika Morgan.

In the girls U14 doubles finals, Tahiti's Vaiani Dusserre-Valleaux and Samoa's Roselyn Tupuola recovered from a first

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jimin Woo will be the North Pacific Team's first U16 singles player for the 2019 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships' team event that will start today in Fiji.